

MONDAY
20p
MONDAY

Street chic for kids
Fashion
page 15

The truth about
MARY BELL
page 17

Arsenal's title
17 pages of SPORT
WIN World Cup
tickets Taken 1 page 39

MONDAY
20p
MONDAY

Industry faces new threat of recession

Bank Holiday trading will boost pound

By JANET BUSH, CHARLES BREMNER AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE pound is expected to soar in unusual Bank Holiday trading today, bringing a new threat of recession to the manufacturing industry after the weekend's messy compromise over who should lead the new Central European Bank.

The rest of Europe faces the prospect of a concerted rise in interest rates as central bankers move to restore the credibility of the single currency project.

Hundreds of extra dealers have been drafted in for holiday trading in the City to handle possible pressure on the euro currencies and demand for sterling and economists predicted volatile and nervous markets as traders tried to make sense of the weekend's events.

The economics community had looked on with incredulity at the Brussels summit, where horse-trading, personality and national ego overshadowed what should have been the public relations triumph to launch the euro.

A midnight deal ended with the naming of Wim Duisenberg of The Netherlands as the first president of the European Central Bank. Under the terms of the Maastricht treaty he must be appointed for eight years, but he immediately promised to step down after four in favour of Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the Banque de France.

Tony Blair, who chaired the summit, President Chirac, Chancellor Kohl and Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, all claimed to be satisfied with the deal. But it was greeted with contempt by the European Parliament and opposition politicians and commentators across Europe. Tory MEPs threatened to mount a legal challenge, while some of the smaller member

states accused Tony Blair of mis-handling the Franco-German clash that had led to the compromise and Viktor Klima, the Austrian Chancellor, said the day had been an exercise in "how not to organise a summit".

The solution, which involved Mr Duisenberg reading out a statement of his intention to retire "for personal reasons" in 2002, brought guffaws from the 2,000 journalists

"This cowardly compromise is a scandal, a disgrace and a disaster... Every EU country owes France a black eye"

— William Rees-Mogg, page 20

Blair blamed 13
Peter Riddell 20
Leading article 21
Roger Bootle 46
Malcolm Bruce 46

who had waited for the summit to stagger through the night.

But Mr Blair insisted that there had been no "fudge or fix". The delicate compromise was "a very, very significant gain, maintaining entirely the sanctity of the treaty". Herr Kohl, who is fighting an uphill battle for re-election, said: "Whether you like it or not, this is an historic day. It's done. The euro is here."

Economists across Europe were, however, vocal in their dismay about the deal. "Short of taking a full-page ad in *The Times*, their displeasure couldn't have been

clearer," Julian Jessop, chief European economist at Nikko Europe, said. "If the markets react badly, the Bundesbank will take the earliest possible opportunity to restore credibility and raise interest rates."

Richard Reid, head of European economics at SBC Warburg Dillon Read, agreed. He thought the Bundesbank would push for a coordinated rise in interest rates within weeks. "The central bankers are going to be saying 'It is up to us now; we have got to show we are in command'."

"What this weekend has shown so graphically is that we may have squeezed these 11 guys into the narrow neck of a bottle so that the euro goes ahead, but that Europe's problems are now about to begin."

Other analysts predicted that the currency markets would punish the ineptitude of the politicians by selling the mark and its euro-satellites. That would mean that the pound, which had been falling last week in anticipation of a smooth start to the euro, could be on the rise again.

For months, British exporters had looked on helplessly as sterling soared to its highest levels for nine years — largely because of uncertainty about the single currency. Investors had bought the pound as a "safe haven", but the buying started to dry up amid optimism about the summit and last week, sterling was quoted at DM2.9640, its lowest level for two months.

However, with the weekend's events confirming many of the market's suspicions about the euro and doubts about the independence of the new central bank, City economists are predicting that ster-

Continued on page 2, col 5



Tara O'Connor will welcome leaders to the G8 summit in Birmingham on Friday. Preview, page 10

IN BRIEF
Arsenal win Premiership

Arsenal won the Premiership soccer title for the first time in seven years yesterday with a crushing 4-0 win over Everton in front of their own fans in North London. The 38,000 fans packed into Highbury erupted into wild celebrations at full time. Marc Overmars, the Dutch midfielder, scored two goals. Pages 25 and 27

Mary Bell's confession

After 30 years, Mary Bell finally confessed that she killed the two boys, according to an extract from Glitta Sereny's book *Cries Unheard*. The disclosure came as Ms Sereny promised that "excess profits" from her book would go to children's charities. *Cries Unheard*... Page 17 Letters... Page 21

BA prepares to fly Airbus

British Airways is preparing to shift its historic links with Boeing by making a ground-breaking deal with rival aircraft manufacturer Airbus Industrie. A £2 billion order planned by British Airways has put the two aircraft manufacturers head-to-head for the contract... Page 48

CROSSWORD
£600
of prizes
JUMBO
Page 43

Family free in Yemen

A British family were freed yesterday after being held by Yemeni tribesmen for two weeks.

David and Carolyn Mitchell and their son, Ben, aged 14, who live in Sidley, East Sussex, were expected at the British embassy in the capital Sana'a last night. They were kidnapped on April 17. The tribesmen had demanded a ransom. The intervention of a Yemeni businessman appeared to have led to the family's release.

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| TV & RADIO | 46, 47 |
| WEATHER | 24 |
| CROSSWORDS | 24, 48 |
| LETTERS | 21 |
| OBITUARIES | 23 |
| W. REES-MOGG | 20 |
| ARTS | 18, 19 |
| CHESS & BRIDGE | 41 |
| COURT & SOCIAL | 22 |
| SPORT | 25-41 |
| FASHION | 15 |
| LAW REPORT | 43 |

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Fugitive Fashanu is found dead

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE apparent suicide of Justin Fashanu, 37, the footballer on the run from American police for allegedly sexually assaulting a 17-year-old boy, has stunned those who saw him happily leaving a gay sauna hours earlier.

The body of the former Nottingham Forest striker — he became the first £1 million black footballer on transferring there from Norwich City in 1981 — was found apparently hanging from a car park railers underneath an east London railway arch, opposite the homosexual club.

Mr Fashanu, a born-again Christian, was facing 20 years' jail if found guilty of the assault. The youth had told police he awoke in bed after a drinking session to find the sportsman performing a sexual act on him. A medical examination appeared to confirm the youth did have sex,

but the footballer, who reportedly volunteered for questioning, denied assault.

He became the first openly gay footballer when he "came out" in October 1990.

Life in freefall, page 5
Obituary, page 23



Fashanu: threatened with US jail term

London peace talks on Mid-East look doomed

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MADEIRAINE ALBRIGHT arrived in London last night as America intensified efforts to avert a breakdown of today's Middle East talks that many participants were already dismissing as doomed.

Amid clear signs that Tony Blair is distancing himself from the talks that he himself proposed during his recent visit to Israel, the American Secretary of State joined Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, at a private dinner where they planned an agenda to rescue the deadlocked Middle East peace process.

Mr Blair, Mr Cook and Ms Albright will today urge Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to compromise over the amount of occupied territory from which Israeli forces will withdraw.

In Cairo, Vice-President Albert Gore said after talks with President Mubarak that despite an extraordinary chance to secure an agreement there remained a long way to go. Washington has given a public warning that if the talks fail it may abandon its mediation efforts.

Downing Street and the Foreign Office made clear that America, rather than Britain, was the main intermediary. The Americans were saying little in advance about the talks, due to begin at the Grosvenor House hotel in London at 10am. Face-to-face negotiations between Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat are unlikely. The main hope is that they can be persuaded to split the difference on the amount of territory transferred to Palestinian control between the 13 per cent that

the Americans have proposed — and Mr Arafat accepted — and the 9 per cent proposed by Mr Netanyahu.

Mr Arafat's representative in London yesterday called Mr Netanyahu a "pyromaniac on the powder keg" and said the Israeli Prime Minister was increasingly seen by public opinion and his American interlocutors as a nuisance.

Mr Arafat has announced that he will declare an independent Palestinian state in 1999, the deadline for a final settlement under the Oslo accords, whether or not he has reached agreement with Israel. The Netanyahu Government has given a warning that it would respond harshly to such a move and might reoccupy Palestinian territory from which it has withdrawn.

Leading article, page 21

Fat cat lawyers enjoy cream of London restaurants

By FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

IF lawyers are truly fat cats, then it is not because of their legal aid earnings but their dining habits.

A survey out this week has found that lawyers are lunching and dining in a big way, spending £70 million a year on restaurants. The legal magazine *In Brief* says that 80 per cent of lawyers view the business lunch or dinner as an important marketing tool.

Its telephone research of 150 lawyers found that a partner in a City law firm eats out for business purposes on average seven times a month at a cost of £40 per head. On top of that, the City lawyer eats out 1.75 times a week, spending some £65 per two people.

Top in the popularity stakes is the Oxo Tower restaurant on the South Bank, "expensive, but not terribly expensive", according to the legal fraternity, although some were disenchanted that tables had to be booked four weeks ahead. City Rhodes, New Street Square, was a close second, and The Ivy and Quaglin's were also often mentioned.

But clients who want to impress their lawyers should beware. *Le Gavroche*, reports the survey, received "a frightful punning" on grounds of price, although quality was highly rated.

"If I started going to *Le Gavroche* all the time," one City lawyer is quoted as saying, "my assuring partner would speak to me fairly quickly."

To drink or not to drink remains an issue: many have cut out the aperitifs but

otherwise go for a modest amount of wine. "Do as the client does," seems to be the rule.

With earnings of a newly qualified solicitor now reaching £35,000, a partner in his or her mid-thirties able to command £90,000 and older partners getting anything from £300,000 a year to £1 million in some cases, the restaurant market is rich in opportunity. *In Brief* plans to launch a guide to London restaurants and to send a copy to 14,000 lawyers in 2,000 central London law firms.

The lunching network is not for everyone. High Street practitioners still content themselves with a sandwich at their desks or a pint at the local.

Law Report, page 43

If you knew how much you're being overcharged for life cover, the shock could kill you.

If you took out your life cover a while ago either to protect your mortgage or your family's lifestyle, you could be paying well over the odds.

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Knockout blow rekindles boxing furore

Title fighter undergoes three-hour operation to remove blood clot on his brain after being knocked down for second time, report Adam Fresco and Srikumar Sen

A BOXER was in a critical condition yesterday after a three-hour operation to remove a blood clot from his brain. Spencer Oliver, 23, who was defending his European super-bantamweight title at the Albert Hall on Saturday, was taken to hospital after being knocked down for the second time in the tenth round.

Oliver, from Barnet, North London, who had won all his previous 14 fights, was felled in the first round but got up quickly and continued fighting. He was ahead on points when he was caught by a big right-hand punch from his opponent, the Ukrainian Sergei Devakov, that sent him crashing to the canvas. He got up but fell back almost immediately.

The medical team of Dr Alistair Skelly, a consultant anaesthetist, Mr Paul Bantwell, a surgeon, and Dr Steven



Oliver before the defence of his title

Shapiro, of the British Boxing Board of Control, were quickly at his side. Oliver received oxygen sitting on the floor but gradually became unconscious and slipped on to his side. He was given an injection to relax him and was put in a neck brace before being

taken by stretcher to a waiting ambulance. The whole operation took 15 minutes.

Oliver, named Young Boxer of the Year ten days ago, was originally taken to the Charing Cross Hospital but was later transferred to the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London, which specialises in brain injuries.

The fight was the first one his father, Jimmy, had missed and he was yesterday flying back from Las Vegas where he had been with the Finchley Amateur Boxing Club. The rest of his family were at his bedside.

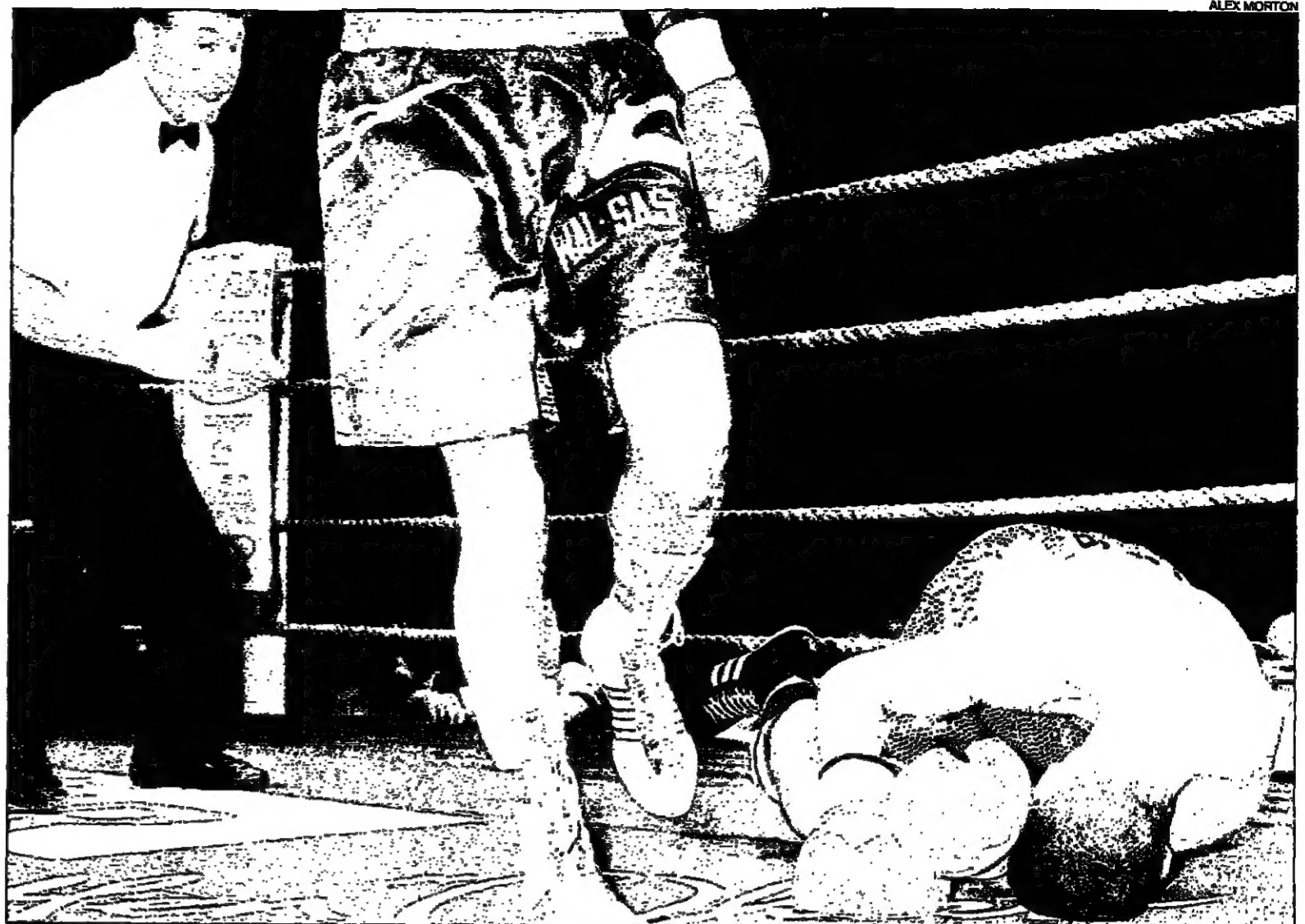
The consultant neurosurgeon who operated on Oliver said a blood clot on the right side of his brain had been removed. James Palmer said: "The blood clot was caused by a torn blood vessel at the back of the brain. He remains fully sedated and on a ventilator and his condition is critical."

Mr Palmer added that the boxer would be kept asleep for at least two to three days while doctors waited for his injuries to stabilise. "The injury is potentially life threatening but his family are with him at this difficult time. His family would wish for privacy over the next few days."

Oliver, nicknamed the Omen, was a silver medalist at the Commonwealth Games in Canada in 1994.

The injury is bound to raise more questions about the safety of the sport and whether fighters should be made to wear head protection or whether the number of rounds fought should be limited.

It could be significant that the seven cases of serious brain injuries suffered by box-



Spencer Oliver on the canvas after an early knockdown during his fight with Sergei Devakov at the Albert Hall on Saturday night

ers in a British ring in the past seven years were all sustained in the late stages of the contest.

A spokesman for the British Medical Association said: "The serious nature of the injury to this boxer would seem to underline the stance the BMA takes against boxing."

While the head remains a target we think the activity of boxing should be banned

because of previous evidence of irreversible accumulative damage to the brain and eyes. The only way we think boxing can be acceptable is to take the head out of the legitimate target area."

Procedures laid down for the British Boxing Board of Control after the tragic contest between Nigel Benn and Gerald McClellan in 1995, which

left McClellan with severe brain damage, emphasised the need for removal of an unconscious boxer from arena to hospital within an hour, to give the fighter the best chance of recovery. Oliver was taken to the National in about that time.

In June last year, Chris Henry, a cruiserweight from Tottenham and from the same

stable as Oliver, suffered a similar head injury. Thanks to prompt action by paramedics, he is making a remarkable recovery. Four months later, another boxer, Carl Wright, a light welterweight from Liverpool who was taken directly to hospital by his cornermen after collapsing in the car on his way home, is leading a normal life today.

The incident comes two weeks after Chris Eubank was treated in hospital after his defeat in a gruelling 12 round cruiserweight championship contest. The former WBO middleweight and super-middleweight champion was taken by ambulance to the Manchester Royal Infirmary suffering from severe bruising to an eye.

Adulterous officer sent home to await sack

BY A CORRESPONDENT

AN ARMY officer acquitted by a court martial of scandalous conduct after an affair with a Wren officer has been suspended from duty, the Ministry of Defence confirmed yesterday. The suspension could lead to Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Pople's dismissal from the Armed Forces.

Last month a five-man military tribunal at Aldershot ruled that Colonel Pople had not prejudiced good order by sleeping with Lieutenant-Commander Karen Pearce while evaluating her work.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "His commanding officer suspended him while considering what administrative action might be appropriate. The decision to suspend rests with the CO and may be taken when a matter appears to reflect adversely on an officer's conduct or character."

Administrative action is similar to the process in civilian life for dismissing staff whose performance falls below acceptable standards. The MoD spokesman added: "Any appropriate administrative action will be considered by the CO, and if the decision is taken to proceed it will be processed through the chain of command. We are not able to discuss the matter further as it is in confidence between the officer and his CO."

Colonel Pople, 42, admitted beginning an affair with Commander Pearce, 34, in 1993, while sharing a Whitehall office at the Ministry of Defence. Both were married.

Car commercial included winking Diana lookalike

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE London chief of a Korean car company pledged yesterday that a television commercial featuring a woman chased by paparazzi would be scrapped if it risked causing offence.

In any event, the controversial commercial — at one stage planned to feature a model who looked like Diana, Princess of Wales — will never be shown in Britain, said Jaibum You.

The agency making the commercial for the Kia Shuma car had hired an English Diana lookalike, Nicky Lilley, to take part in a sequence in which the car would escape photographers riding motorcycles.

She walked out in disgust after learning the details of the advertisement, which was to have ended with her winking at the camera as if to suggest that the Princess would still be alive if she had been in a Kia.



Nicky Lilley: walked out in disgust

for the Kia Motor Corporation, South Korea's second largest car-maker, said: "I was really shocked when I heard of the Diana lookalike idea, and I have been trying to find out the facts."

The link with the crash in Paris which killed the Princess had not been approved by the company, he insisted. "A Korean advertising agency which works for Kia in its domestic market presented to the company the idea of a film with paparazzi chasing a model using our new Shuma car — and not catching her."

"Paparazzi on motorcycles are a well-known problem in Korea. They give a lot of trouble to our sports people and other celebrities. Koreans would not necessarily link them with Diana's death."

The advertisement was to be made in the United States and at some stage agency people had the idea of using a Diana lookalike to give an added twist, said Mr You. "It was totally the agency's idea. When they realised that this could cause big trouble, a lot of damage to the company, they scrapped it."

Mark Quinn, managing director of Kia (UK), welcomed Mr You's findings, but said he intended to contact the head office in Korea. "We were appalled at the insensitivity of the idea of making an advertisement linked with the death of the Princess, even though it would obviously never be shown here."

Letters, page 21

EU minister hunts rubber duck to near extinction

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE rubber duck is heading for extinction if the EU Commission Emma Bonino gets her way. Dr Bonino, responsible for consumer affairs, wants to protect the health of infant Europeans by banning all toys made of PVC, a plastic used for over 40 years.

She believes that the toys are such a threat that she has invoked emergency powers, designed to deal with the BSE crisis, to press for an immediate ban.

Her plans have enraged the toy industry, which claims they have no scientific basis. "If this goes ahead it will kill a great number of companies," said Maurits Bruggink, of

Toys Industry Europe, a Brussels-based industry group. "Forty per cent of all toys contain PVC and there are no alternatives." Soft PVC is used for teething rings, dolls, inflatable beach toys, balls and paddling pools. The British Plastics Federation has condemned attacks on PVC toys as "irresponsible scaremongering".

Fears over the safety of PVC toys emerged after studies in Denmark, which suggested that the plasticiser used to make soft PVC could "break out" of the plastic if sucked by children. The material used, a phthalate, is one of dozens identified as possible "gender-

bending" chemicals which mimic the behaviour of natural hormones.

These chemicals have been blamed for unnatural changes in wildlife, including changes of sex among fish, and linked by some scientists to declining sperm counts in humans. After Denmark pressed for a ban on PVC toys, and the case was taken up by Greenpeace, the EU began to examine the evidence. The data is expected to be completed soon.

EU lawyers have expressed concern at Dr Bonino's actions, arguing that they cannot be justified by the evidence available.



PALMIST JANE LEVY USES HER RIGHT HAND TO PREDICT HER BUSINESS FUTURE.



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THE TIMES/DILLONS
An evening
Toni Morrison

TONI MORRISON
Winning the Nobel Prize for her brilliant and powerful novel, *Beloved*, Morrison's first novel, *The Bluest Eye*, was published by the New York Times Book Company. Morrison's first novel, *The Bluest Eye*, was published by the New York Times Book Company. Morrison's first novel, *The Bluest Eye*, was published by the New York Times Book Company.

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حکومت العراق

Fashanu's final happy hours in a gay club

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

JUSTIN FASHANU spent four hours in Britain's biggest homosexual health club, joked with staff, shaved and smartened himself up, apparently carefree, on the night before he was found hanging from a railway arch a few yards away.

As Scotland Yard sources yesterday suggested there were no suspicious circumstances to the footballer's death, those who had been with him during his final hours were unable to believe that the 37-year-old had been suicidal.

Mr Fashanu's body was found the day after the British media reported that he was wanted by police in the United States for allegedly molesting a drunken 17-year-old boy. It had been reported that the Americans were prepared to seek Fashanu's extradition to face a possible 20-year jail sentence for sexual assault.

It had been more than a month since the alleged attack on the boy. There is no reason to believe Mr Fashanu knew a warrant had been issued on April 3 for his arrest after police learned his flat in Elliott, Maryland, had been abandoned.

Among the gay community around Shoreditch, East London, where Mr Fashanu's body was discovered, there are fears that the footballer may

have had a "helping hand" in the apparent suicide.

Mr Fashanu was at Charlott's Roman Spa, a male bathhouse, from 3pm to 7pm on Friday. The all-night health club charges £12 for entry and is popular with businessmen and visitors from the Continent. Mr Fashanu, a new comer, was seen in the sauna area.

David Pollard, the landlord of The Joiners Arms, a gay pub in the vicinity, has spoken to people who were at the spa on Friday afternoon.

He said: "Justin Fashanu was extremely chirpy. He was chatty when he went in, chatty and pleasant when he went out. The guy on reception was seen talking to him, saying 'Where do I know you from?' The footballer gave him a few clues and the receptionist said 'You're Justin Fashanu.'"

"Before he left, Justin Fashanu was seen going to one of the guys working there and asked to borrow shaving foam. He went off, had a shave and was looking spick-and-span when he left, which is an odd thing when someone is going to commit suicide. He seemed quite happy. He had deliberately spruced himself up."

"Do people shave before they go off and commit suicide? Why do you want to look your best? The people who saw him before he died simply

do not believe he killed himself."

At noon on Saturday, police were called by a passer-by to the railway arches in Fairchild Place where they found the footballer's body, apparently hanged. A post-mortem examination is believed to have blamed death on strangulation by hanging.

The alleged assault on the teenager in America was the latest in a series of scandals, many of them the product of Mr Fashanu's own fertile imagination.

The actress Julie Goodyear, who played Bet Gilroy in *Coronation Street*, yesterday accused Mr Fashanu of "telling a lot of lies about me for money". He had claimed they were lovers. "The only relationship I ever had with Justin was one of friendship but he claimed it was a sexual relationship which was not true."



Melissa Bell with her husband, Peter Bracken, left, and her father after her wedding yesterday

Daughter of MP marries campaign co-worker

By LUCY LAWRENCE

MELISSA BELL, daughter of the Independent MP Martin Bell, yesterday married the former army major she met while managing her father's election campaign last year.

Miss Bell, 25, fell for Peter Bracken, 37, who was sent from Labour's election headquarters to join the fight. Mr Bracken proposed two months later over a bowl of pasta.

The bride arrived on the arm of her father at the 13th-century St Oswald's Church in Lower Pover, Cheshire.

Mr Bell said he found his daughter's wedding as nerve-racking as covering some war zones. "I'm having a 'father of the bride' nightmare," he said after the service. "I have to give a speech and I just hope people will listen. But it is one of the happiest days of my life — she is marrying a wonderful guy. Quite by chance I have got a seat in Parliament and a son-in-law all in the past year."

Rejections led to a life in freefall

By SIMON BARNES

JUSTIN FASHANU'S brief and unedifying life is a kind of Hogarthian morality tale; except it is not really clear what the moral is. Is it something to do with the quotidian cruelties of sport? Or of family life?

There were perhaps two defining moments in Fashanu's life. The first was when his father abandoned his family to return to Nigeria. Justin and his brother, John, became Bernard's boys, and were later adopted. The story almost turned into a fairytale. Both became professional footballers; Justin was the more spectacularly gifted.

Enter disaster, and the second defining moment, in the form of Brian Clough — 1981 was the year of the first million-pound footballer, and Clough wanted one. So he bought Fashanu for Nottingham Forest, for a round million. And promptly aban-

doned him, as Fashanu failed to reproduce his Norwich form. He was humiliatedly dropped from the first team and said pathetically of Clough: "He's the best manager in the game. He's never been a failure. Why should he start with me?"

Football has not even begun to come to terms with homosexuality. Fashanu came out in 1990 — the first professional footballer to do so — but his revelations did not set a trend. Fame evaded him, so he settled for notoriety.

He lacked the talent for possessing talent. The second disaster of his life, it seems, was a rejection too far. He fell from grace at Nottingham Forest and has been in freefall ever since. Perhaps he would have had a less troubled life had his talents been made for an arena more forgiving than sport.

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

An evening with Toni Morrison



TONI MORRISON, the Nobel prize-winning author, will be reading from her long-awaited new novel, *Paradise* (Chatto & Windus £16.99), at a Times/Dillons Forum on Monday, May 18. This event, chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, offers

readers the rare opportunity to ask Morrison questions about her life and work.

The forum, at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1, marks the publication of *Paradise*, Morrison's first book for five years. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid ID) includes £2 off copies of *Paradise*.

TONI MORRISON FORUM

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Please note that tickets will be posted until May 11 only. Tickets booked after this date will be held for collection on the night at the venue. If you do not receive your tickets please call 0171-636 1577 to confirm your booking.

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around, more comfort when you're not. Can other airlines compete? Fat chance.

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Birthday drinker died after 27 whiskies

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A SHOPWORKER died from alcohol poisoning after drinking 27 Jack Daniel's to celebrate his birthday. Mark Doggett, 24, downed the drinks in two hours after telling his friends that he wanted a whisky for every year of his life. After managing 24, he had a further triple.

An inquest heard that Mr Doggett, of Fulbourn, Cambridge, went to a pub with two colleagues at 6pm. His usual drink was lager. He had never tried Jack Daniel's before, but he began by drinking singles, then doubles, then triples and finally quadruples.

There are 70 centilitres in a spirit bottle. Mr Doggett drank 63cl.

By 5pm the group was asked to leave the Hogshead pub in Regent Street, Cambridge, because they were becoming too rowdy. Mr Doggett was carried outside by a colleague and a barman, but kept falling over. He was sick and then he stopped breathing.

Paramedics managed to resuscitate him partially, but he never regained consciousness and died in Addenbrooke's Hospital six days later.

Verdict: misadventure.

Sacked Bill actor dies after pub collapse

Star kept on drinking despite booking into clinic, Kathryn Knight reports

COLLEAGUES of the actor Kevin Lloyd, best known for his portrayal of the detective Tosh Lines in ITV's *The Bill*, yesterday spoke of their shock and sadness at his sudden death at the weekend.

Mr Lloyd, 49, who had booked into a alcohol rehabilitation clinic in the village of Rolleston on Dove, Staffordshire, collapsed on Saturday afternoon after drinking in a nearby pub. Despite efforts to revive him he did not recover consciousness, and he was pronounced dead at Queen's Hospital, Burton on Trent.

The father of seven, who was separated from his wife Lesley, had been sacked from his £130,000-a-year role by *The Bill*'s producers last week after turning up drunk despite final warnings about his behaviour. He booked into the Dove clinic hours on Tuesday afternoon but was in the process of being discharged

after failing to respond to treatment.

Yesterday people in the Staffordshire village where Mr Lloyd had spent his last days said that he had been spotted buying alcohol in the local Co-op store and drinking in the pub opposite the clinic during the five days before his death.

Members of *The Bill* cast were told the news of their colleague's death as they turned up for filming at their London studios. Billy Murray, who plays Detective Sergeant Don Beech, said: "Everybody loved Kevin. We were all sad when he was dismissed, but it was inevitable. It had been on the cards for over a year. His close friends had all tried to talk some sense into him," he said.

"People are just shocked and sad. He was immensely proud of his family and his home. He will be greatly missed. Kevin was Tosh; his life mirrored his character's life." Earlier this year *The Bill*'s



Kevin Lloyd, left, who played Tosh Lines, with two fellow actors from *The Bill*. He died at the weekend after being sacked from the series

producers had paid for a five-week stay by Mr Lloyd at the Woodbourne Priory clinic in Edgbaston, Birmingham, in an attempt to cure his drink problem.

He had complained that his heavy work schedule, combined with a daily commute to

his family home in Derbyshire, had led to a descent into alcoholism.

However, he was subsequently given an ultimatum to stop drinking or face the sack. He was fired last Monday after turning up late and drunk on set and reportedly

bungling his lines a number of times. Mr Lloyd's recent relationship with Rita Hudson also ended after she said she could no longer cope with his alcoholism.

At Dove clinic, the nurse manager, Zoe Fowell, who was supervising Mr Lloyd's

care, admitted that they had had problems with the actor. "He was clearly not committed to the treatment programme. Despite all our efforts he continued to drink. He was distressed on arrival and continued to drink throughout the week. We do

not keep patients under lock and key; people come here out of choice and they have the choice to leave the building when they wish," she said. "Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family."

Obituary, page 23

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Midwives fear for light babies

Midwives want a government inquiry into the high number of low birthweight babies. Britain has one of the highest rates of low birthweight in Europe: 7 per cent of babies born in England and Wales weigh less than 5½lb, which increases the risk of stillbirth or death after birth. Midwives meeting in Bournemouth said that maternal and infant health should be a political priority.

Dead girl found

The body of a newborn girl has been found inside a hoarding dumped in a playground in Lincoln. A towel and a blanket were also in the black bag, which bore the word "Sports" in green.

Officer arrested

A Scotland Yard detective has been arrested by anti-corruption investigators. The officer, who is alleged to have been involved in smuggling drugs, works in the Criminal Intelligence Branch.

Crash kills three

A husband and wife and their ten-year-old son were killed when their Mini collided with a van on the A20 at Smeeth, near Ashford, Kent. Their daughter, eight, was in a critical condition last night.

Scots earthquake

A large area of Argyll was shaken by an earthquake measuring 3.4 on the Richter scale. The epicentre was nearly nine miles under the seabed off Jura and shocks were felt 40 miles away in Oban.

Dounreay notice

A statutory enforcement notice from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency is likely to be served on Dounreay, requiring the nuclear plant to clean up its emissions.

House fire kills father of evicted family

BY GILLIAN HARRIS
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE father of Scotland's most notorious family died in a house fire yesterday.

The body of Gordon Graham, 42, was discovered by firemen in the bedroom of his top-floor flat in Fraserburgh, near Aberdeen. He and his family waged a campaign of terror against their neighbours, which culminated in the Grahams being evicted from their home for antisocial behaviour.

Mr Graham, who had a string of convictions stretching back 15 years, moved to Aberdeenshire three years ago with his wife, Anne, 38, a convicted drug dealer, and their five children, after a sheriff forced them to leave their council house in Glenrothes, Fife.

Their former neighbours nicknamed the Grahams the "family from hell" and dubbed the area in which they lived Little Bosnia. They claimed that refuse collectors were afraid to approach the Grahams' house, postmen were regularly bitten by their dog and the bus company had to route one of its services away from the area after the Graham children repeatedly pelted vehicles with stones.

On one occasion, when sheriff officers called about rent arrears, they found the door barricaded by an upturned car while the family bombarded them with missiles and verbal abuse.

Throughout their time in Glenrothes, the family remained defiant despite their unpopularity, accusing their neighbours of picking on them. Even when the eviction notice was served, the Grahams chose to appeal and spent a further eight months in their home.

Yesterday, a spokesman for Grampian Police said there would be an investigation into the cause of the fire.

Minister accused of affair resigns

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A CHURCH of Scotland minister has resigned after admitting serious professional misconduct. But a church official would not confirm that the resignation was linked to newspaper reports that he had had an affair with a schoolgirl.

The Rev Terence Moran, 37, is alleged to have become involved with the 17-year-old when she sought his help after she discovered that her mother was terminally ill. She was also believed to have been trying to cope with the recent death of her father.

The alleged affair was said to have come to light after the sixth-former told a teacher, who then informed education authorities. Mr Moran was

minister of Arthurlie Parish Church in Barrhead, near Glasgow.

A presbytery statement confirmed that Mr Moran's offer of resignation had been accepted at a meeting on April 14 but that he had ceased to be a minister from April 3, the day of his letter of resignation.

A statement issued on behalf of the local presbytery said: "Terence Moran has admitted his charge and his status as a minister of the Church of Scotland. He did this after admitting allegations of serious professional misconduct."

Calls to the manse at Arthurlie Parish Church went unanswered yesterday.

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Middle East Peace Process Meetings

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Wildlife on one: Lucy Lintott, 7, keeping a wary eye on a red-kneed Mexican tarantula at Drusillas Park in Alfriston, East Sussex, yesterday

Lover to

GENERATION — their Valentin village called it with a purpose — Lover — and — is immortal the world in Christmas and also sent them before being But now they hang up her name on a post office — Lynda Cooper — children has and closing down the "personal" real steps in to set

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Why dark blue polyester is the safest sunwear

THEY may make you sweat, but man-made fabrics are generally more effective against sunburn than cotton or silk.

Scientists also say that colour is an important factor. Traditional summer off-whites and creams are bad protectors against ultra-violet light, which can cause skin cancer. Dark colours such as red and navy are much safer.

As the result of research, labels giving the protection rating of a garment are likely to appear on shirts, tops, jackets, trousers and skirts before the end of the year. They are part of a government-backed campaign to cut the rise of skin cancer cases linked to sunbathing.

The Department of Health, radiation scientists, clothes-makers and textile associations are supporting the new rating system.

The studies have been carried out by the National Radiological Protection Board. Scientists there have developed a British Standard called BS 7914 that allows a laboratory to rate a garment for its clothing protection fac-

Nick Nuttall reports on a labelling scheme that could banish cream T-shirts from the beach

tor. Colin Driscoll, a member of the team whose findings are published in *Radiological Protection Bulletin* No 200, said yesterday that a factor of 15 should protect most people from sunburn in Britain. One of 25 or over should offer sufficient protection in the Mediterranean or Caribbean.

"However, someone with sensitive skin might need to look for a factor of, say, 50 or more," said Dr Driscoll, leader of the board's optical radiation group.

The researchers have used the new standard to assess textiles under a variety of conditions. The least protection comes from a cream-

coloured, woven cotton. Tests show that that combination has a protection factor of just seven, falling to four when wet. An off-white knitted cotton scored a factor of nine.

White, knitted cottons scored better, with a factor of 33 to 57, but the research shows that some garments made from this material may still cause sunburn in red-heads or other people with delicate skins.

Dr Driscoll said people should also be cautious when wearing bright white cottons. They often contained fluorescent whitening agents, which could reflect hazardous rays on to an unprotected face.

The research found that the highest protection factors come from knitted polyester and Lycra mixes and knitted nylon and Lycra. A navy blue polyester and Lycra garment rated 178 a red one made from nylon and Lycra scored 222, falling to 184 when wet.

"The knitted polyester remained reasonably constant, giving exceptionally high protection," Dr Driscoll said. The scientists also tested knitted polyester and Lycra stretch



Dark colours and man-made fabrics give more protection against ultra-violet rays. Clothes labels will soon carry sun protection ratings

fabrics. Here, colour was crucial. Yellow, blue and orange ones offered factors of between 21 and 35. A navy outfit in the same stretch fabric gave a factor of 55.

Experts from the clothing industry and health bodies are now trying to turn the findings into a simple labelling

scheme. Draft guidance is expected later this month and the labels could be on clothes by the end of the year.

Some garments such as bikinis and shorts are unlikely to carry the labels, Dr Driscoll said. "The whole idea of the labels is about cover-up. This system should mean that,

if you are going out into the sun and will be unavoidably exposed, you can choose items which you are not going to get sunburnt through.

"Some people are concerned that you may blunt the message if you put sun protection factor labels on skimpy items, so that the breasts and but-

tocks are protected but the major part of the body is not," he said.

Roger Clifton, chairman of the British Standards Institution working group looking into the labels, said yesterday that there were other issues to be resolved. Cotton textile makers are concerned that

some fabrics, such as woven cottons which have been found to offer low protection, may be shunned by designers of summer wear. The incidence of malignant melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer, has doubled in Britain over the period between 1979 and 1994.

Lover to lose stamp of celebrity

BY SIMON DE BRUELLES

GENERATIONS of romantics have sent their Valentine cards via a Wiltshire village called Lover to have them franked with a particularly expressive postmark.

Lover — pronounced Lover by locals — is inundated with cards from around the world in the days before February 14. Christmas and even birthday cards are also sent there to be stamped "Lover" before being posted on to sweethearts. But now the village postmistress wants to hang up her franking stamp and turn her tiny post office back into a home.

Lynda Cooper, who is married with children, has announced that she will be closing down at the end of next month for "personal reasons". Unless someone steps in to set up a new post office in the

village, the Lover postmark will disappear for ever.

Mrs Cooper would not disclose what plans she and her husband, Gordon, 47, have. "I'd rather not discuss why I'm closing the post office down," she said.

"It's usually quiet here, but it gets very busy in the run-up to February 14."

"I handle anything between 2,000 and 4,000 letters every Valentine's Day. There have been a few advances made by people who want to consider taking over the post office but I can't discuss that yet. After the end of June, I'll no longer be the postmistress. That's all I'm prepared to say."

Pam Johns, spokeswoman for Post Office Counters, said: "We haven't yet secured a replacement for her, but we hope someone will come forward to keep

the Valentine's Day tradition going." Suggestions include a temporary post office in the village hall, opening only on pension days to save Lover's elderly residents the trek to the nearest villages of Redlynch or Hale.

Pam Crisp, secretary of the village hall, said: "The problem is that the hall is fully booked, so we would have to tell somebody they couldn't use it any longer. Everybody from the local playgroup to the yoga club uses the hall and I'd hate the idea of displacing them. Security may also pose a problem."

Steve Sanders, chairman of Lover Parish Council, said: "It is a really sad situation. All it would take is someone with a garage they don't use who would be prepared to take on the responsibility. Time is running out."

Nurse sues over passive smoking



Sylvia Sparrow: inhaled fumes from patients

A NURSE'S legal battle for compensation from her former employer over passive smoking may open the floodgates for other claims and revolutionise the workplace, it has been claimed.

Sylvia Sparrow, 60, who has chronic asthma, is suing St Andrews Homes for injury and loss of earnings in the first passive-smoking case in a British court. Mrs Sparrow, of Swinton, near Manchester, inhaled smoke from elderly patients' cigarettes when she worked in the communal lounge of Worsley Lodge nursing home. Two years later she began to have breathing prob-

lems and has been on sick leave since February 1992.

Carol Brooks-Johnson, her lawyer, claimed that Mrs Sparrow's employers had failed to provide her with a smoke-free working environment. Clive Bates, director of the anti-smoking pressure group Ash, said yesterday: "If this action is successful, it could open the floodgates for other cases."

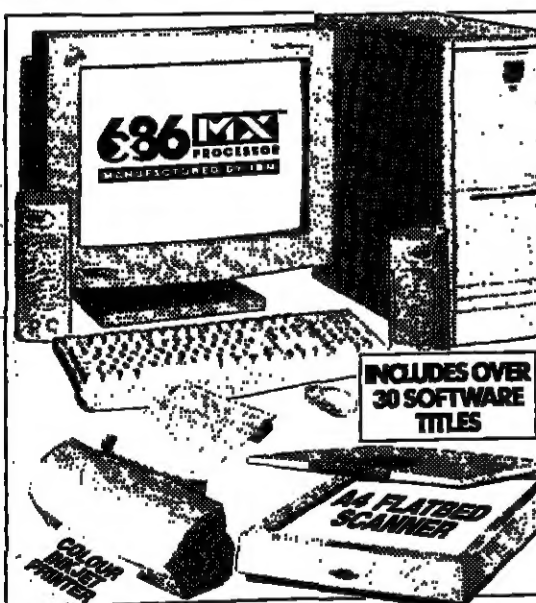
"The Health and Safety at Work Act says that employers have a duty to protect their workforce from hazardous substances. If you have asthma or other breathing difficulties, then passive smoking

may be hazardous," Mrs Sparrow, a non-smoker, joined the nursing home, now under new management, in 1986. When her asthma was diagnosed, she was moved to another lounge and then transferred back to the lounge that she claims was used by the heaviest smokers.

Miss Brooks-Johnson said that the case, if successful, could widen the scope of the law, and act as a warning to employers, who had a duty to provide a safe place of work. "We argue that a smoking environment is not safe."

The hearing is to be held at Manchester High Court.

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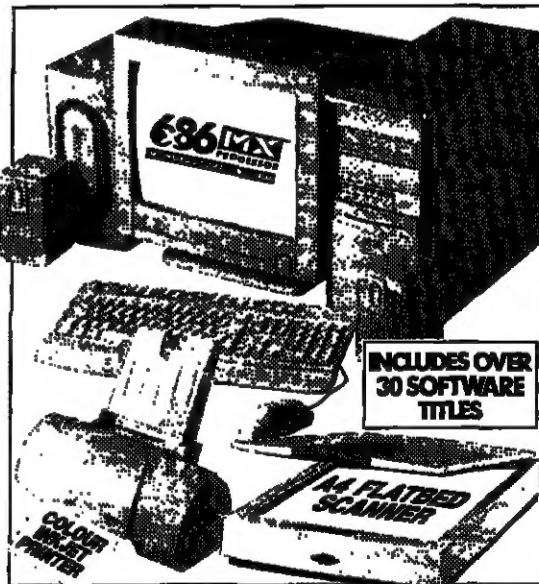
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Clinton 'consumed by self-pity' as inquiries take toll

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE pressure of Washington's sex scandal and other investigations is beginning to get to President Clinton, friends and aides say.

They describe him as consumed with anger and self-pity in his darkest moments. They also express amazement at his capacity to brush off his legal problems and to portray himself in public as untroubled, even as the inquiries gain momentum and speculation grows that Hillary Clinton might be indicted.

Privately, Mr Clinton fumes about Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor who is investigating a string of accusations stemming from White Water, plus allegations of a sexual relationship between the President and Monica Lewinsky and that Mr Clinton told her to lie about it.

Mr Clinton reportedly vented his anger recently in a telephone call to a friend. "Can you believe this (expletive)?"

he asked, referring to Mr Starr. "He's crazy. He's a zealot. He'll do anything to hang me."

Americans still overwhelmingly approve of the job Mr Clinton is doing, but a majority tell pollsters they do not like or trust him. He complains that the media has been unfair and has expressed frustration that the Starr inquiries could last "forever".

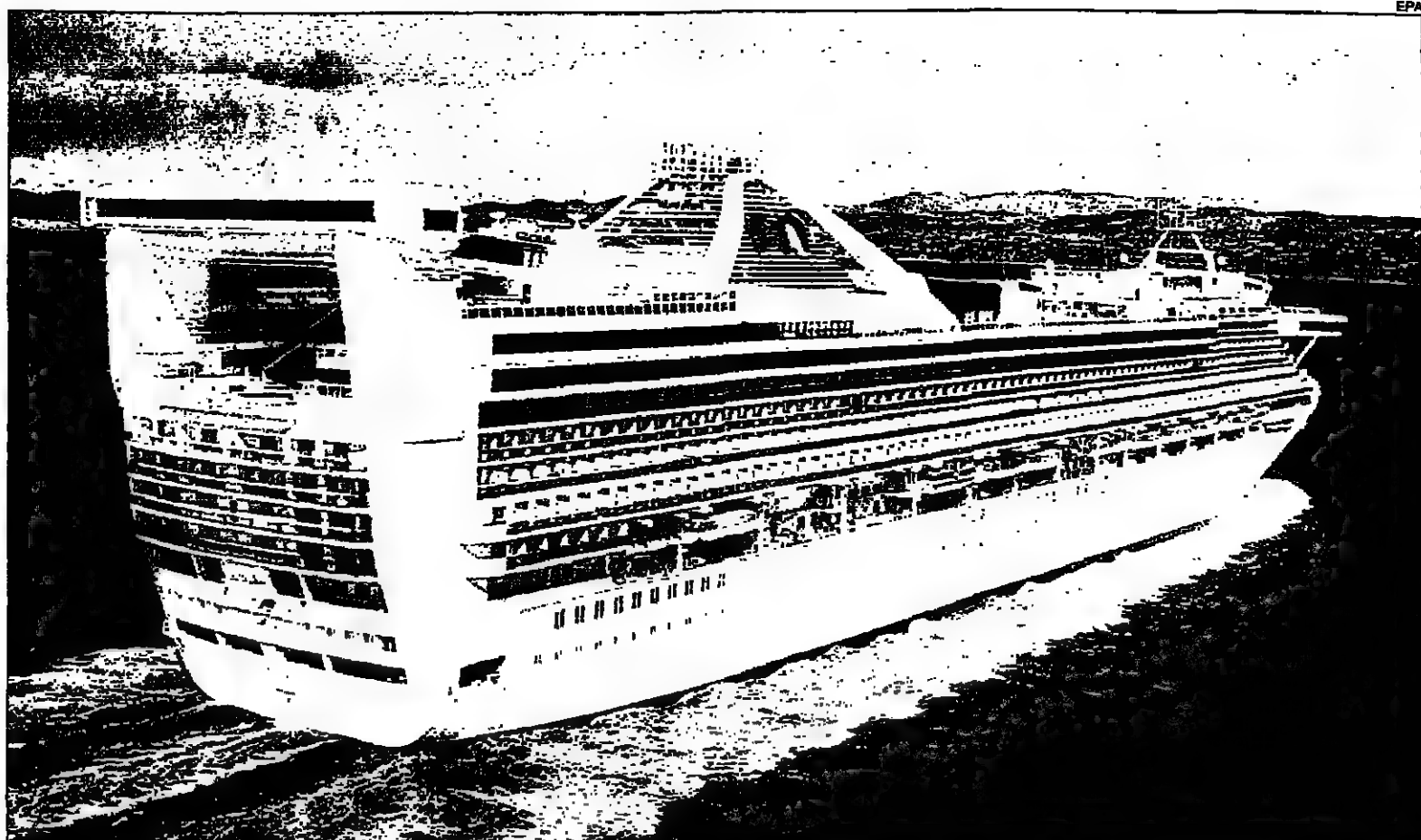
News that the inquiries are eating at Mr Clinton comes as the atmosphere in Washington has turned more hostile. In recent days, Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker, has accused the President of lacking moral authority and has vowed to mention this topic in every speech he makes.

In another setback for the President, Webster Hubbell, formerly a close Arkansas friend of the Clintons, has again been indicted for fraud, this time over alleged tax evasion. Mr Starr has also

indicted his wife, Suzanna Hubbell, in what is seen as an attempt to force Mr Hubbell to say what he knows about Mrs Clinton's alleged involvement in a scheme to mislead federal financial regulators when she and Mr Hubbell worked for a Little Rock law firm.

On Mr Hubbell's taped conversations from prison, leaked by congressional Republicans, he is heard discussing inquiries that could lead to Mrs Clinton and remarks: "So, I need to roll over one more time."

The Little Rock grand jury looking into this phase of Mr Starr's investigation is due to complete its work this week after listening to Mrs Clinton's five-hour taped deposition taken ten days ago at the White House. Robert Novak, a leading Republican columnist, said yesterday that informed insiders put the chances of her being indicted at about 40 per cent.



The world's largest passenger liner sails from the Gulf of Trieste on its way to Southampton yesterday after being launched at the Financieri shipyard at Montecarlo (Richard Owen writes). P&O's *Grand Princess*, which weighs 109,000 tonnes,

P&O's giant liner sets sail for the golf

carries 3,300 passengers and a crew of 1,100. Described by *Corriere della Sera* as "one of the wonders of modern shipping", the Italian-built

vessel is almost 950ft long, 125ft wide and 197ft high. All 1,300 cabins have been booked for the ship's inaugural journey from Southampton to New

York. The £250 million liner boasts five swimming pools — including one with a coral reef — and a nine-hole golf course, as well as covered tennis courts and two theatres. There is a Hearts and Minds chapel to seal shipboard romances in marriage.

Magicians lament vanishing tricks as TV reveals all

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

FEARING for their livelihoods, more than 1,000 magicians are planning a protest tomorrow at the prospect of having their secrets exposed on a popular television programme.

The veil of mystery that keeps hundreds of small-time performers in business is being yanked away, they claim, by *Breaking the Magician's Code*, a series that has won higher ratings than World Series baseball games.

They are fighting back by offering free shows to lure viewers out of their homes while the show is broadcast. There will be few disappearing elephants in the performances being put on at 8pm tomorrow in public venues across the country; that trick — involving sliding bamboo screens — was "outed" in the first instalment last year, forcing practitioners to drop it and others from their routines and often rendering expensive props useless.

"In a perfect world Fox would reimburse me \$3,000 (£1,800) for the illusions they exposed because I can't use them now," Mark Farris —

also known as Almodarr — told *US News and World Report*. Another magician, who performs at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, complained: "It's like destroying Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny. I find these [programmes] pathetic." Far from offering compensation, the network has said it hopes the series encourages magicians to dream up new tricks.

Faced with such defiance, Andre Cole, who fears his Table of Death routine is about to be exposed, went to court in Los Angeles last week seeking an injunction banning tomorrow's broadcast. The injunction was denied, but Mr Cole is appealing.

The biggest names in magic have been quick to emphasise that they fear nothing from the programmes. David Copperfield, whose highly evolved version of smoke and mirrors earns him some \$74 million a year, boasts that if a trick is rumbled he can "just change the method". Those who work with him also sign strict confidentiality agreements and face bruising lawsuits if they break them.



Magicians plan a protest to protect tricks of the trade

Bank to write off theft of \$66m

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

BANKBOSTON, one of America's leading banks, has written off \$66 million siphoned away by an Uruguayan executive.

Ricardo Carrasco, 42, head of the New York international private client section, made the loans — most for less than \$1 million (£600,000) and so not needing clearance — to an Argentine businessman, Oldemar Carlos Barreiro.

Mr Barreiro agrees some of the money came back to him, but says he cannot repay it. BankBoston accepts that and, having admitted its controls were lax, is unlikely to get a substantial insurance payout. It is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the capture of Mr Carrasco.

Harare tycoon's assets frozen

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE gold, tobacco and financial empire of a tycoon whose bank collapsed last week has been frozen by the Zimbabwean judicial authorities on suspicion of fraud.

Emmerson Mnangagwa, the Justice Minister, said Roger Boka, the militant champion of black empowerment, and nine of his companies were barred under anti-corruption laws from carrying out any business. Authorities have to carry out an investigation immediately.

The Government closed Mr Boka's United Merchant bank after an investigation showed that it was broke. The frail diabetic businessman's vision of black economic empowerment, launched two years ago to destroy what he said was a racist white business cartel, has turned into the biggest financial scandal in the country's history.

Birmingham welcomes the G8 delegates for world talks.

(Afterwards, the world will be talking about us.)

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Life goes on and on for the people who time forgot

IT COULD be the pure mountain water. It could be a life of back-breaking labour. It may even be an unexplained freak of genetics. But something extraordinary is enabling the inhabitants of this remote region to live longer than any other people on Earth.

They are the mountain Azeris of southern Azerbaijan. Some 65,000 of them are dotted over the fertile ridges between the Iranian border and the Caspian Sea. According to records kept by the remnants of the Soviet bureaucracy here, more than 10 per cent are aged over 90. They have the highest number of centenarians on the planet. But some, like Mirzahan Movlamov, live to be much older.

Mr Movlamov told *The Times* he was 130. He says he remembers the childhood of Tsar Nicholas II, served in his Imperial cavalry, and had reached the tender age of 50 in



1917 when he fought with the White Russians against the Bolsheviks. It is a claim that would stretch credulity were it not that this longevity has been a phenomenon of these parts for generations. Shirali Muslimov, an Azeri from the Lerik district, was proclaimed "The Oldest Inhabitant of the Planet" by local authorities, and was listed by the *Guinness Book of Records* as the oldest man alive. Muslimov's faded papers said he was born in 1805, the year

Michael Dynes meets inhabitants of a remote region in Azerbaijan famed for their longevity

Nelson defeated the French at the Battle of Trafalgar. He died in 1973, aged 168.

What is even more astonishing is that he remained lucid to the end, although is said to have had difficulty remembering the name of his 200th descendant. His obituary credited him with "tending the sheep of rich people for the first hundred years of his life". Soviet scientists flocked to Lerik to try to discover the secret. They examined the old folk, conducted water tests



Mirzahan Movlamov, 130, with some of the younger members of his extensive family at his home in Lerik, part of Azerbaijan's Shangri-La

and blood tests, and every other conceivable sort of test, but never uncovered the secret. Their conclusion was that the phenomenon could be explained only by the "inherent superiority of the Communist way of life".

Almost a decade after the collapse of Communism, Mr

Movlamov offered a more prosaic explanation. "Here we didn't lack for anything," he said. "The mountain air is clean, we prepared our own food, and we ate only what we produced." Pressed for something more specific, Mr Movlamov counselled: "Everything the cow gives you is

good." That as a devout Muslim he never smoked or drank (even though the vodka in these parts is reputed to have medicinal — even mystical — qualities), probably has more to do with it.

Sitting on the mud floor of his mountain hut, only a solitary light bulb by way of

modern conveniences, Mr Movlamov reminisced about his long life. His third wife, 85, lies on tiny bed in the corner of the room. He remembered fondly his first and second wives, both of whom died. "All my wives have been good to me," he said.

His children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren number about 60, he thought. His first son from his first marriage is now 80. It is still common for people in Lerik to have 15 children and, as everyone lives so long,

family trees soon become family forests.

Despite an ambition to live another 20 years, Mr Movlamov is approaching the end of his long life; he has lost the use of his arms and legs, and is suffering from an acute eye infection. He said he cannot make ends meet on his 56-a-month pension.

He does not regret the collapse of the Soviet Union, even though life was easier then, but wished the newly independent Government was as generous as the Communists had been.



Cary, my darling?

Yes Audrey, my sweet?

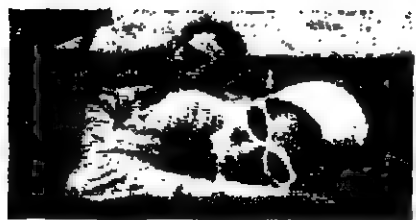


Do you mind if we stop a moment? The view looks so enchanting.

But of course my angel.



I do so love Monaco at this time of year.



Actually, my sweet, that's Torquay.



Oh don't spoil it, just kiss me you fool!



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Desperate Nepalis turn to the monarchy

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KATHMANDU



Birendra: struggling to remain neutral

THE Nepali Royal Family, stripped of its powers eight years ago, is struggling to remain politically neutral amid a tide of popular disgust with democracy. An escalating Maoist insurgency in the west of the country threatens further disintegration of the democratic experiment.

The latest Government, the fifth since the last election in 1994, is doing little to ease near-famine conditions in remote mountain regions after the destruction of winter crops by hail and rain. This is further confirmation of political paralysis, adding to despair with corrupt and squabbling politicians.

The Maoist rebellion, in which 146 police and suspected rebels have died in two years, has stunned the authorities in Kathmandu. Fewer than that number died in the pro-democracy rebellion in 1989-90, which threatened

to topple the Royal Family unless it accepted a British-style constitutional role.

Small groups armed with locally made weapons have attacked banks, government offices and feudal landlords with increasing effectiveness, possibly aided by the expertise of a few retired Gurkhas.

King Birendra has privately made it known that he opposes using the army to quell the uprising. People are turning again to him in a wave of nostalgia for the old days but the King has adhered to his new constitutional role, and politicians jealous of his popularity have no intention of allowing him to assume a higher profile.

"The art of erotica"

The Times, 2nd March 1998



Recently in *The Times*, Damian Whitworth examined a rather different kind of journal, which has recently gone on sale in certain selected newsagents and bookshops: *The Erotic Review*. It has proved so popular that, within a few days, Waterstone's had reordered and the Society had to reprint.

The *Times* correspondent speaks about the spicy writing — by contributors such as Auberon Waugh, Joceline Dimbleby and Barry Humphries — and explicit illustrations, some of which are 'scarily erotic'.

The May/June issue is out now. Bi-monthly and expanded for the first time. As a special offer we invite you to subscribe to the next three issues of *The Erotic Review* for just £5.00 including (discreet) p&p and receive this issue free.

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THE Erotic REVIEW

مَكْزَا مِنْ الْأَصْلِ

Leaders blame Blair for bank wrangle

Philip Webster
and Charles
Bremner look
back on a bitter
euro summit

IN THE aftermath of the bitter Euro-summit, Tony Blair emerged as something of a scapegoat yesterday for frustrated leaders of the smaller states who complained of a lack of preparation and failure to include them in negotiations.

At one stage on Saturday, Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, was so annoyed by Mr Blair's private chats with the key players in the Franco-German dispute over the European Central Bank that he threatened to take ten fellow leaders off to a Brussels restaurant for a separate lunch, diplomats said.

Romano Prodi and Jean-Claude Juncker, the Italian and Luxembourg Prime Ministers, criticised what they called the British presidency's poor preparation. Mr Juncker regretted Britain's failure to keep him informed of the deal that was taking shape. Viktor Klima, the Austrian Chancellor, said: "We have now learned for our presidency how not to organise a summit."

Austria takes over the EU chair in July. Mr Klima said he was already taking over for matters involving the euro because Britain was not in the currency.

British officials strongly defended Mr Blair after his debut as chairman at a classic EU horse-trading session, saying his strategy had been to secure an arrangement which would ensure that Wim Duisenberg, the Dutchman, could be formally appointed to the full eight-year term as president of the bank, while crafting a gentleman's agreement to have him succeeded after four by Jean-Claude Trichet of France.

Mr Blair began by summing up Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, Wim Kok of The Netherlands, Signor Prodi, President Chirac and Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, to a private session. Mr Blair wanted to avoid the risk of two vetoes. Failure to appoint Mr Duisenberg to the full term



Tony Blair, flanked by Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, points at a journalist while answering questions at a news conference in Brussels after Saturday's summit agreement

would have brought a Dutch veto, while M Chirac would have blocked the Dutchman if his candidate was not given a clear promise of succession.

As the "lunch" dragged on for hours, M Chirac maintained his insistence on a firm date for a hand-over. At 5pm, Mr Duisenberg said he could promise a July 2002 departure. The French accepted, but insisted that M Trichet be appointed successor.

At 6pm there was a crisis when an angry Herr Kohl dug

in his heels. As the stand-off continued, José-Maria Gil-Robles, president of the European Parliament, stormed out of the council building in protest over the emerging compromise.

He returned to denounce it as a breach of the Maastricht treaty. In an attempt to force the pace, the Prime Minister's spokesman was sent to warn 2,000 waiting reporters that the talks might end in failure.

The breakthrough came at midnight after Mr Blair had Mr Duisenberg brought in to tell the leaders directly that he would step down.

This left the council to carry out their historic decision to launch the euro, an act that took 12 minutes, compared with 11 hours for the bank squabble.

William Rees-Mogg, Page 20
Leading article, Page 21
Bundesbank threat, Page 46



Chirac insisted on date for hand-over

Vatican signs up for new currency

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

ITALY

AS ITALY yesterday celebrated joining the euro, the Vatican ended uncertainty over its own currency plans by indicating that it would follow suit and adopt the euro rather than the US dollar.

The Vatican City, which has fewer than a thousand residents and covers 0.44 square kilometres (0.16 square miles) of sovereign territory in the heart of Rome, at present uses the lira. The Vatican Mint and the Vatican Bank — properly called the Istituto di Opere di Religione, or IOR — are linked to the Bank of Italy. But the Vatican carries out transactions in a variety of international currencies, above all the US dollar. In the

past it has become enmeshed in financial scandals as a result of ill-judged investments and business partners, some linked to the Mafia.

There had been reports that the Vatican might opt to join the dollar zone. But yesterday, *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, hailed Italy's adherence to the euro as historic and said the decision by 11 countries to adopt the currency was "a very positive step". Bishop Francesco Salerno, secretary of the Vatican Prefecture for Economic Affairs, said the Holy See would now "begin to pave the way for the euro as well". He did not say whether the Vatican euro would have the Pope's image

on it, as Vatican lira coins do.

Professor Romano Prodi, Italy's centre-left Prime Minister, thanked Italians for helping the country to qualify for the euro by making sacrifices — a reference to spending cuts and the imposition of a euro tax. "I am happy, and I think you are all happy, too," Signor Prodi said. He noted that the European Union had been born as a "fusion of German and Latin cultures" in the 1957 Treaty of Rome, and that Italy stood at the delicate junction between Europe and North Africa, or between Christianity and Islam. "Italy's duty to Europe is to make the Mediterranean a sea of peace," he said.

Signor Prodi, who came to power two years ago and staked his future on Italy joining the euro, said the single currency would guarantee the country's future. "Italy is stronger," he said. "You have passed the test, and I thank you from my heart." But *Il Messaggero* gave a warning that the advent of the single currency would bring the "winds of competition" to Italy's economy, and would shake up the over-protected retail and banking sectors.

Striking a Eurosceptic note Antonio Martino, former Foreign Minister in the 1994 centre-right Government of Silvio Berlusconi, said the euro would hasten the "Germanisation of Europe". It was irresponsible of the Prodi Government to disguise from Italians "the very real possibility that the single currency will end in disaster".

The buck stops with inscrutable Mr Euro

BY CHARLES BREMNER

PROFILE

Few Europeans may have heard of Wim Duisenberg, appointed yesterday to run the euro, but within months the tall, craggy-faced Dutch banker will become a household name — and an obvious target for popular ire if the single currency runs into trouble.

Named after a bruising wrangle in Brussels, Mr Duisenberg, 62, a golf lover with a trademark mane of silver hair, becomes "Mr Euro" when he takes the helm at the Frankfurt-based European Central Bank (ECB) at its launch in July. Heading a five-strong directorate with 500 staff, he will hold one of the world's most powerful unelected jobs. Conceived at Maastricht, the bank must set interest rates and administer in complete independence from politicians the money of 11 states with the paramount goal of fighting inflation.

For the Germans and supporters of

a hard euro, Mr Duisenberg, a former Finance Minister in a Labour Government and governor of the Dutch Central Bank, offers the safest pair of hands outside the Bundesbank. As the man who, in effect, married the guild to the mark in the 1980s and boosted the Dutch "economic miracle" — The Netherlands is the Continent's economic showcase, having high growth, extensive social protection and low unemployment — his devotion to independent hard-money orthodoxy is above suspicion. Since taking over the European Monetary Institute (EMI), a year ago, he has often quoted Hans Tietmeyer, chief of the Bundesbank, that he has earned the French nickname *Hans m'a dit* (Hans told me).

The same could not quite be said for Jean-Claude Trichet, the French central bank governor whom President

Chirac forced EU leaders to anoint in succession to Mr Duisenberg after a curtailed four-year term. M Trichet, 55, the very model of the erudite Paris technocrat, has earned his own name for orthodoxy and relishes his nickname, *L'ayatollah du franc fort*. His support for a Bundesbank-style devotion to price stability has even caused critics to dub him "Hans-Claude Trichemeyer" — another reference to the mark's steward. Recent strictures from the one-time student radical attracted the wrath of M Chirac.

However, that was not enough to allay suspicions in Germany and The Netherlands that M Trichet would inevitably be France's man at the ECB, with the risk that he would bow to his Government's desire for a more flexible managed currency. M Trichet's November appearance as M Chirac's candidate took him by surprise; he had backed the private deal in which

Mr Duisenberg had been prevailed to take the EMI job in 1996 on the understanding of fellow central bankers that he would succeed to the ECB seat. This quiet arrangement was seen by the French Government as a coup d'état among central bankers at the expense of political control.

The French spanner in the ECB works has angered and embarrassed the Dutchman, who had been reluctant to accept the Dutch-German offer to become the euro's custodian and had refused to consider splitting the eight-year term with M Trichet. Saturday's near-farical events forced him to spend the day waiting while the leaders wrangled over his fate, and ended with being persuaded to make a bizarre statement, declaring he would stand down in 2002 for personal reasons. Such political play-acting is anathema to a man who embodies the stubborn traits of natives of Friesland and adopts the public persona of the inscrutable, discreet central banker.



Wim Duisenberg, left, and his successor at the central bank, Jean-Claude Trichet

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Poverty's fugitives cling to edges of society in land of the rich

To be poor in a rich country is to live as a fugitive. The little things give the poor away, the absences. After my son's football practice it is traditional for parents to have a beer. For some months now Brigitte has not picked up her boy. She cannot afford her round and so prefers not to come. Nor can she pay for new indoor gym shoes so her son stays off sick whenever there is PE.

All this was secret — she covered her tracks well — until she appealed to the headmistress for a reduction in the cost of a school outing.

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

The discount was allowed subject to the approval of other parents. And so it became clear that Brigitte

was on her uppers; on social welfare, no child support coming in, two months behind with the rent. Other parents regarded her not with sympathy but suspicion. One mother rang her and demanded she withdraw her application: there was a Bosnian in the class and he should take precedence. The Bosnian was really poor.

There are, according to the church charities who submit a poverty report this week, about seven million people in Germany living below the official poverty level. Social Democrat experts come up with different figures distin-

guishing between people on social welfare and those who live on even less, the so-called Secret Poor. An analysis for the Friedrich Ebert Foundation identifies 900,000 "working poor" in Germany earning such meagre wages that they are unable to scramble above the poverty barrier.

Naturally, there is no starvation poverty. Last Christmas a teenage boy hit the headlines after he rang a Cologne tabloid and confessed his mother was sick and his brothers and sisters had not eaten for three days. The

paper published a report and within the day a lorryload of yoghurts had been delivered to the door by a publicity conscious donor. To be poor in Germany is to be rich in Romania, to be poor in Romania is to be rich in Somalia. It was ever thus.

Germany's poor are the indebted and the long-term unemployed, divorced mothers, widows and large, low-earning families. Social welfare used to be based on the minimum needed to maintain a "dignified life". Now the calculation is more complex and in many ways less generous, but social welfare was sup-

posed to provide enough cash in a month to buy ten eggs, 250g (9oz) of flour, 50g of peas, a bottle of shampoo, two toilet rolls, half-a-dozen mushrooms, and a bottle of vegetable oil. The money was also supposed to be sufficient for a cinema ticket, 12 bus tickets, ten local phone-calls, four stamps and about 18 miles of train travel. Germans can receive help with rent, and get children's allowances. It is enough to get by, but it is not much. Moreover many who have dropped below the poverty level — getting less than £310 a

month — are not aware of the help available and are intimidated by the paperwork.

About ten million people here are below the waterline. Some are students who will, sooner or later, earn decent money. Some are widows with low cashflow but who own their homes. Take them away and one is left with the genuine poor: the homeless living in ventilation shafts, the beggars or people like Brigitte who dwell on the very edge of the cliff. The Social Democrats, like New Labour, say they want a more "inclusive"

society, that the underclass should not become permanent. Gerhard Schröder says he can beat Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, by appealing to the "new Centre". This "new Centre" is only superficially prosperous. It is also inhabited by people in dying professions, by skilled craftsmen, by part-timers — all living in fear of personal disaster.

This fear is more acute here than in Britain, despite Germany's obvious wealth. Those pinning their election banners on the modernisation of society must bear this in mind: voters want more, not less, protection.

Far Right heads for victory as Gaullists bicker

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE fortunes of France's centre-right politicians hit new depths yesterday as they were forced to watch from the sidelines a by-election run-off involving the far-right National Front and the Socialists.

With opinion polls predicting victory for Jean-Marie Le Pen's xenophobic movement, the election in Toulon in the South has been a fresh disaster for President Chirac's supporters. They were forced to swallow their pride as the National Front boasted that it was now the sole credible representative of the Right.

Daniel Colin, the centre-right candidate, was eliminated in the first round a week ago as voters showed their contempt for the quarrels and lack of direction that mark the presidential coalition.

Cendrine Le Chevallier, standing for the National Front, polled almost 40 per cent last weekend in a result that shocked a mainstream French political class which is becoming accustomed to unpleasant surprises.

Odette Casanova, the Socialist candidate, was hoping to win the backing of a large pool of electors who did not vote in the first round. Yesterday's turnout was up, but

Mme Casanova's chances of victory remained slim, political analysts said.

The poll was called after a court quashed the result of last year's legislative election in Toulon, when Mme Le Chevallier's husband, Jean-Marie, who is also the city's Mayor, became the only National Front candidate to win a seat in parliament. Since then, things have gone from bad to worse for the centre-right parties, whose leaders have been unable to prevent local alliances with a National Front keen to exploit turmoil.

The coalition of Gaullists and centrists has conveyed a rudderless image that was condemned by voters in Toulon last week when M Colin received 22 per cent of the vote.

Even then the bickering continued, with leading centre-right figures unable to decide whether their supporters should vote against the National Front. Blamed for the defeat, M Colin reacted by condemning the "nauseous" tactics of his own side. He said his colleagues were unworthy of the electorate's trust.

André Santini, vice-president of the centrist Union for Democracy in France (UDF), said it would be "difficult for

us to go any lower. We've hit the bottom of the swimming pool and now we're digging."

He added: "The Centre-Right is in quicksand. The more we thrash about, the deeper we sink." He said the UDF was likely to finish well behind the National Front in next year's European elections, a prospect that would have seemed unthinkable just five years ago.

Whatever yesterday's result, the Toulon by-election has reinforced the belief of extreme rightwingers that power is within their grasp.

The elimination of M Colin, and Mme Le Chevallier's first-round performance, will strengthen those within M Chirac's camp who want to strike deals with the National Front. They claim the Centre-Right faces repeated electoral failure unless it accepts the possibility of a coalition with a movement.

The National Front's success comes amid signs that the far Right is gaining momentum across Europe, with the German People's Party polling 12.9 per cent of the vote in a regional election last weekend, and Jörg Haider's Freedom Party enjoying the support of a quarter of Austrian voters.



Bormann's skull, found by workmen in 1972, had splinters of glass cyanide capsules lodged in the jawbone

DNA test ends hunt for Bormann

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE fate of Martin Bormann, Hitler's right hand man in the Berlin bunker, has finally been resolved after almost a year of DNA testing on the Nazi's skull. Frankfurt justice officials will release a forensic report this week confirming that Bormann — hunted for decades by secret agents, Nazi hunters and Fleet Street reporters — poisoned himself

and died not far from the bunker on May 2, 1945.

Bormann's children, who provided the blood samples needed for the DNA testing, have decided to have the remains cremated and are considering scattering the ashes at sea.

In 1972 building workers in Berlin discovered two skeletons on a bridge near the old Lehrter railway station. German authorities announced that, on the basis of dental records, the two men were probably Bormann and one of Hitler's doctors, Ludwig Stumpfegger. Splinters of glass cyanide capsules were lodged in their jawbones. The most likely explanation was that the two men had separated from others who had tried to break out of the Hitler bunker. After finding themselves caught in crossfire, they killed themselves.

Although the Germans were happy to call a halt to the embarrassing hunt, the search continued elsewhere. The skull was put under lock and key and the family was not allowed to take the remains of the body until final identification had been made. As late as 1993, bodies were being exhumed in South America in



Bormann: killed himself near Hitler's bunker

the belief that Bormann had died of stomach cancer in Paraguay in 1959.

The fascination with the whereabouts of Bormann stemmed from his unquestioned closeness to Hitler, who was godfather to his first child. As Hitler's assistant, he profited from the growing isolation of the Nazi leader, taking on the administration of the chancellery and almost at times running the Reich. He was sentenced to death in absentia at Nuremberg. Since so many top Nazis escaped a final reckoning by committing suicide, the public was determined that at least one should be brought to book.

Forced to rely on the testimony of only a few witnesses, Hugh Trevor-Roper, the British military government investigator, had to conclude there was a possibility that Bormann was still alive.

Some investigators were sent on the wrong trail because of the flawed testimony from SS corporal Erich Wiedwald, which claimed that Bormann had escaped to refuge in Brazil close to the Paraguay border. Other sightings had Bormann living in Chile and Argentina.

The trail, however, also pointed Nazi hunters in the direction of Italy, where Bormann was supposed to have holed up in a monastery. One former Nazi claimed that he had worked with Bormann in a travelling circus. Another German magazine came up with the idea that Winston Churchill brought Bormann to London.

The DNA testing on the skull is now regarded as the final word. It will put an end not only to the uncertainty of historians and the emotional discomfort of the Bormann children, but also to a whole era of colourfully imaginative journalism which sent hapless reporters through swamps and jungles in pursuit of the mythical last Nazi.

How US saw the faces of Hitler

Hamburg: Fearing that Adolf Hitler might try to flee Germany near the end of the Second World War, American agents produced retouched photographs showing how the Nazi leader might appear in disguise.

The German weekly news magazine *Der Spiegel* published them yesterday, saying it had dug them out of archives of the US Office of Strategic Services.

The images were designed to show how Hitler would have looked with-



Hitler in disguise: photographs retouched by an artist

out his moustache, bald or with full beard and glasses. The US agency commissioned New York make-up artist Eddie Senz to produce the simulations by retouching a Hitler photo, *Spie-*

gel said in an advance copy of today's edition. The article said the make-up artist concluded that the Nazi dictator's penetrating eyes would have been difficult to mask. (AP)

Louvre visitors frisked for stolen art

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

SEVERAL hundred visitors to the Louvre were searched yesterday after a valuable painting was stolen. Visitors were held in the museum for up to 90 minutes as a result of body searches, and some fainted.

A museum employee told French television there were "scenes of panic" among people who had not been told why they could not leave the building.

The museum was closed after a thief took the work by the 19th century French artist, Camille Corot, leaving behind the frame and glass protection plate, in the early afternoon. Police were placed at all

the museum's exits and carried out what they said were thorough searches on visitors as they left.

Tens of thousands of people visit the Louvre on Sundays, and many hundreds were present when the work, entitled *Le Chemin de Sévres*, disappeared. The painting is 13in by 19in, small enough to be slipped into a bag or large coat, detectives said.

Security experts say a professional thief needs just ten minutes to extract a work from its frame and less than five minutes to leave the Louvre — time enough to have escaped before the doors were shut. Works by Corot, considered to be one of

France's foremost 19th century artists, set for anything up to £6 million (£600,000). A small Corot painting was recently sold at auction in New York for £741,000.

The theft will raise doubts over security at the museum which has a history of similar incidents. In 1995, the Louvre reviewed security arrangements after three works of art were stolen in the space of six months. More than 200 guards are on duty at any one time, backed by what the Louvre says is a modern alarm system.

The museum's management last night apologised to visitors for "all the inconvenience caused by this theft".

WORLD SUMMARY

Extra Cuba missiles uncovered

Miami: New evidence uncovered by Western and Russian researchers shows that American intelligence agencies drastically underestimated the number of Soviet nuclear weapons in Cuba at the time of the 1962 missile crisis (David Adams writes).

The *Miami Herald* said that, in addition to 45 long-range SS4 and SS5 strategic missiles known about, new documents found in Russian archives indicate that there were also as many as 104 smaller short-range FKR cruise missiles and Luna tactical rockets in Cuba.

Spanish river clean-up begins

Seville: Workers using shovels and bulldozers began moving seven million tons of acidic mud left on the Guadalquivir river banks near Sanlúcar la Mayor in southwest Spain when a dam at Los Frailes mine's reservoir collapsed. Volunteers have already cleared up to 20 tonnes of dead fish from contaminated waters near Doñana National Park, Europe's biggest nature reserve. (Reuters)

Bomb alert at Sistine Chapel

Rome: The Vatican confirmed it had received hoax phone calls claiming bombs had been planted in the Sistine Chapel (Richard Owen writes). On Saturday 15,000 visitors — many of whom had queued for hours — were moved out of the Vatican museums, which include the celebrated chapel. *La Repubblica* said there had been five recent bomb hoaxes.

India to resume rocket tests

Delhi: Indian scientists plan to revive testing the Agni ballistic missile that could hit targets deep inside China, the Press Trust of India news agency said yesterday. The report will increase interest in comments by George Fernandes, India's Defence Minister, to be broadcast today, that China is the greatest threat to Indian security. (AP)

Space ark back with survivors

Cape Canaveral: The space shuttle Columbia and its crew returned to Earth, after two weeks of experiments. Scientists will now begin dissecting the few dozen baby rats that survived 16 days of weightlessness, as well as nearly 2,000 fish, snails, crickets and other rodents on board. (AP)

Grave concern in Singapore

Singapore: With Singapore running out of graveyard space, cremation is the only possible way of prolonging the lifespan of the island's last cemetery, it was reported. The last graveyard will be full in 15 years. It said. All of Singapore's private cemeteries have already been closed. (AFP)

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Kitting out cool kids

Choosing styles to suit children can be made easy by mail-order says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

If you have spent half an hour wondering whether red really does suit your child, whether combat trousers are an unacceptably militaristic look, or whether the Blairs' daughter should wear smocked dresses, then you probably kept quiet about it. There are supposed to be more important things to think about.

Yet how you dress your children is important, indeed. Important enough to engage the philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who advised in his *Emile* that "the limbs of a growing child should be free to move easily in his clothing... The best plan is to keep children in frocks as long as possible and provide them with loose clothing, without trying to define the shape

which is only another way of deforming it." He was not talking about this year's "lost waist" dresses, nor about the excesses of deconstructionist designers, but of freeing children from hoops, stays, tight waistcoats and knee breeches. His views influenced the Victorians, who introduced sailor suits and muslin dresses and more or less created our concept of childhood.

Throughout this century the attitude has persisted that it is naïf to dress children in adult-style clothing. But in the past few years, a shift has taken place. Twenty and thirty-somethings continue to wear "street" fashion beyond the age when it is strictly decent. And they have begun dressing their children in miniature versions of their own

favourites — you can buy scaled-down Nike trainers, children's Dr Martens and even baby Patagonia fleeces. There is, however, what you might call the Kensington look — traditional dresses in Liberty prints with plenty of smocking and puffed sleeves.

So at last, eclecticism has come to children's fashion. The big drawback, however, is that it involves going into lots of shops with a recalcitrant four-year-old in tow.

If you are to enjoy the diversity to children's style, you will need a stack of mail-order catalogues. That way not only will your little ones come to regard a morning at the shops as a treat, but you can also style your children with the kind of flair that emerges only two hours after they are in bed. It will then be possible to supplement this look with a few "pieces" from Mothercare or Baby Gap.

Each year, more and more catalogues come on the market. Besides major names such as Next, Freemans and La Redoute, there are now specialist companies offering a particular style. Boden, known for its sportswear classics, now does Mini Boden, with lots of miniature polo shirts and sweat tops. Trotters, the chichi children's boutique, has produced a catalogue full of beautifully made "classics with a twist" from its own Chelsea Clothing Company. It also includes DKNY, Elle and Timberland. At the other end of the spectrum, Tirkhe Dungha specialises in urban sportswear for boys aged eight and upwards.

The market is now so developed, that there are designers with conflicting philosophies. Launched this year, Zed aims to produce "a collection of stylish daywear influenced by adult catwalk trends" for the two to 12 age range.

Meanwhile, Katie Mawson, 34, designs bold, simple knitwear with strong graphic designs. "I like the clothes to be simple and fun," says Mawson, whose first child is on the way. "I don't want children to become fashion victims. I don't like the image of Zed." Such judgments can prove academic. For the big occasions, a friend's daughter will wear only her fairy dress. Trips to the supermarket, visits to friends, all are conducted in a pink tutu with silver wings. Not very Frada. But there are fairy looks in next season's Chloé...



Red star jumper, £37, and Lapland hat, £18.50, by Katie Mawson. Denim skirt, £16.99, Trotters Direct. Dr Martens shoes £27.99



Orange dress, £16.99, ages 2-8 by Zed catalogue. Shoes by Benetton, £10, sizes 4-8 from Freemans catalogue. Sunflower hair accessories, £2.99, from Trotters.



Union Jack sweater, £44.50, and combat trousers, £28.50, both ages 2-8 from Roobarb & Custard. Trainers, £55, by Tirkhe Dungha

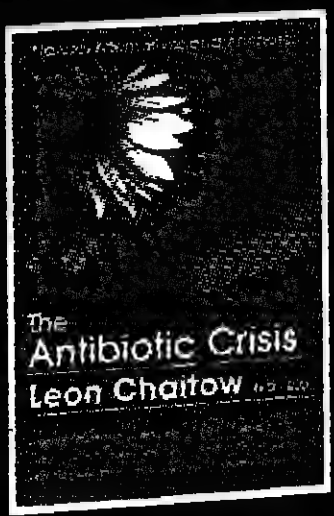


Pink pique sport sundress, £8 and green clogs £11, both from Freemans catalogue. Lime green cardigan £15.99, Next Directory

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Pharaoh with a secret

A rare genetic disorder may link present day sufferers with an Egyptian pharaoh. Anjana Ahuja reports

Doctor Bob Brier rarely found the time to pursue the more obscure journals in his field. A respected Egyptologist at Long Island University, New York, his spare moments last year were taken up by his efforts to research a television documentary and write a book.

But in a snatched break he came across a paper tucked away in a publication from the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities. It concerned Akhenaten, regarded as the most radical and enigmatic of the pharaohs who once ruled Ancient Egypt. Shortly after ascending to the throne somewhere around 1375 BC, Akhenaten swept away all existing religions and instigated a new one dedicated to the Sun.

Experts have long sought to explain his strange behaviour. And here, in this paper, a young Canadian student had put together the perfect theory. Akhenaten, she suggested, could have been a sufferer of Marfan's syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that leads to a slight oddness in physical appearance and feelings of alienation.

Dr Brier recalls: "It was complete chance — she had seen a magazine which had an article on Marfan's syndrome and featured a photograph of a sufferer. She was struck by how much the sufferer resembled Akhenaten."

Her intriguing suggestion may have lain unnoticed in the literature, but Dr Brier was so impressed that he sought out sufferers and medical experts. He was sufficiently convinced to include an entire chapter on it in his new book, *The Murder of Tutankhamen* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20), about Akhenaten's more famous son. He does not know how the idea will be regarded by his colleagues. "It has only just been aired, so people haven't had a chance to respond to it yet," Dr Brier says.

"But as theories go, it's a good one." Marfan's syndrome, which affects only two people in 100,000 and claims Abraham Lincoln as a famous sufferer, begins to show itself after the age of ten. Affected individuals grow very tall; their fingers become long and spindly; and the chest and spine develop deformities. The condition arises because of a problem in the connective tissue that surrounds body structures and fixes them in place. Heart failure is the most common cause of death. If the condition is diagnosed, heart surgery is an option, but those afflicted are thought lucky if they live beyond 50.

Circumstantial evidence also points to Marfan's. The disorder is a dominant genetic defect — sufferers have a 50 per cent chance of passing it on to their children. Statues of Akhenaten's offspring show similar deformities.

Unlike Marfan's, Froelich's syndrome is not inherited, and it would be highly unlikely, given its rarity, to strike many times within one family. The low life expectancy for Marfan's sufferers may also explain why the royal house of the late 18th Dynasty, with which Akhenaten was associated, was cursed with so many early deaths.

Could the same disorder explain Akhenaten's outlandish behaviour? Dr Brier sought out Dr Jessica Davis, a geneticist at New York Hospital. "Jessica said she thought it was a viable suggestion," he says. "That's when I decided I had to meet some Marfan's sufferers."

His first encounter was one of the most memorable moments in his professional career: "I turned up at this meeting, and here were these people. They didn't seem freakish, just a little thinner and a little taller than normal. But they looked so much like Akhenaten. One of the women could have passed for his sister. I showed them slides, and I could hear them talking about his fingers and toes. It was incredible. They thought that he was definitely one of them."



Secret of the pharaoh's gloom: Akhenaten has the typical look of a sufferer of Marfan's syndrome

fingers and toes. It was incredible. They thought that he was definitely one of them."

"I also spoke to them about their experiences, and all of them said they understood Akhenaten's behaviour. Many said they had felt isolated, and one woman said she was always put to the back of the family photographs. Because of this, many felt the need to rebel."

Akhenaten seems to have grown up with the same painful sense of exile and, later, the same compulsion to challenge the prevailing order. Born Amenhotep (or Amenophis) IV to Pharaoh Amenhotep III and Queen Tiye, he appears to have been shunned. He does not feature in paintings or sculptures dating

from the reign of his father. He faced public life when his elder brother died, leaving him next in line to become King of Egypt. His accession as a teenager was one of the most tumultuous in this great empire's history. In a bid to lessen the influence of the all-powerful priests, he soon introduced a new religion to his people, with the Sun Disc (Aton, or Aten) as its God, inadvertently becoming, it is widely assumed, the world's first monotheist. He made himself the only intermediary between his people and the Aton, and changed his name to Akhenaten ("one of use to the Sun Disc").

He erected a new capital city, Akhetaten (Horizon of the Sun

Disc). His sweeping changes proved unpopular — after his death, all mentions of him were erased from monuments, and the previous religions, with their powerful priesthoods, were reinstated. He is now often referred to as the Heretic or Rebel Pharaoh.

Dr Brier, who will be a guest of honour tonight at a dinner to raise money for Marfan's sufferers, says that they have come to regard the Egyptian king as an ancient friend. He says: "When I told one of the Marfan's people about Akhenaten establishing his own religion, she smiled and said she would love to have done that. It's kind of nice to feel that the King of Egypt was a kindred spirit."

Food for thought ☐ Brain power

Stop the crop

THE FUTURE of maize which has been gene-modified could be put in jeopardy by Swiss research that shows it can kill beneficial insects as well as pests. The new results may reopen the argument over European Union authorisation for the crop, which came despite British objections and which has been challenged by two EU states, Austria and Luxembourg.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

The maize is made by Novartis (formerly Ciba Seeds) and incorporates a gene from a bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, that makes a protein poisonous to the larvae of the corn-borer. The *B. thuringiensis* protein was used as a spray against the pest, but that required application at the time the larvae emerged and before they bored into plant stems. Novartis put the gene into the plant itself.

A team at the Swiss Federal Research Station for Agroecology and Agriculture in Zurich, led by Dr Angelika Hilbeck, has found evidence that the poisonous effects of the protein can spread further. It raised plant-eating insects on *B. thuringiensis* maize plants and fed them to the larvae of lacewings — which eat crop pests.

They report in *Environmental Entomology* that the death rates of the lacewings nearly doubled, and this happened whether or not the plant-eating insects were susceptible to *B. thuringiensis*. This means that an insect

could nibble the plant, then fly off and be eaten by a lacewing, which would die. Far from the protein killing only corn-borers, as Novartis intended, it would also damage other species. Using *B. thuringiensis* as a spray would be less likely to have such effects.

The finding is another strike against a crop that has been criticised because it contains, as well as the *B. thuringiensis* gene, genes conferring antibiotic and pesticide resistance. They were put in to simplify seed production, a process described by a Ministry of Agriculture official as "sloppy genetic modification". Britain's expert committee turned down the maize, worried that the antibiotic-resistant gene would get into bacteria and make those antibiotic-resistant.

After much argument, and despite objections from the European Parliament, the *B. thuringiensis* maize was approved by the European Commission. Michael Meacher, the Minister for the Environment, has said that he is "totally dissatisfied". The Commission, however, says that approval can be withdrawn only if new scientific evidence raises questions of safety. But Dr Ian Taylor, of Greenpeace, says that is what the Swiss scientists have provided. "The UK should ask the Commission to suspend authorisation immediately," he says. "If it won't, then the UK should follow Austria and Luxembourg and impose a national ban."

The bearing necessities



THINK of a familiar place. The impression it creates — say, tall buildings on one side of a street and trees

the other — seems to be the task of a specific brain part. The discovery, reported by *Nature*, came as a surprise to the research team. The area of the brain responsible — the size of a sugar cube and located in the parahippocampal cortex — responds when volunteers are shown pictures of places. The re-

sponse, say Drs Russell Epstein and Nancy Kanwisher of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is almost as strong to a scene of an empty room as it is to the same room filled with furniture. It is triggered by landmarks and landscapes, but remains inactive when faces, trees, or objects are displayed.

The results fit with those of experiments with rats and human infants, which show that when they are lost, they use the shape of a space rather than anything within it to find their bearings.

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CRIES UNHEARD: MARY BELL

Mary is a very, very loving mother

Motherhood turned Mary into two people, says Gitta Sereny in the fourth extract from her book

IN 1985 MARY, now married to "Rob", the father of her child, had to have a hysterectomy because of suspected cancer. Afterwards, their marriage began to show cracks. Rob, she told me — and her then probation officer, Pat Royston, confirmed it — was too young to understand the physical and emotional effects of a hysterectomy on a young woman. A year later the marriage was at breaking point. It was at this time that she got to know a young man, Jim. In May 1988 the marriage broke up. Rob had been telling Mary she was frigid and a "freak show". She turned to Jim, who has been her partner ever since. But a policeman there learnt who she was and told his wife. She and other villagers got up a petition and soon people were parading through the street with banners reading "Murderer Out". Mary felt she could never live in the North East again. Pat Royston helped them to move to the south of England, where she could have the support of an experienced probation officer.

Mary's probation officer from October 1988, Samantha Connolly, is one of the warmest, most attractive people I would meet while I worked with Mary. Now retired, she worked in the Probation Service for 30 years and, except for Pat Royston, was Mary's wisest counsellor. "I first met Mary on a late autumn day, in the 'early afternoon', she said. "They had managed very quickly to get themselves sensibly established on an estate farm, where the owners had given them a really nice cottage rent-free, against Mary helping in the manor for 12 hours a week, and Jim working one full day a week in the grounds. For the remainder of the week, he had got himself a job as a carpenter and he loved this and worked hard."

"Sam was impressed by the reception she was given by the little family. 'Mary had been very friendly, very polite. When I phoned her', she said, 'and had laid out a nicely prepared tea when I came. It's not what I'm necessarily used to when I visit clients,' she laughed. 'There's often a cup of coffee or tea, but a carefully prepared little feast isn't the way they usually react. You see, she wasn't making up to me anything; she was a house-proud young woman and she was shy and warm — all quite unexpected.'"

"I was impressed, too, by how tactful they were: the child was not there when I arrived — she had been taken to play with new friends; and Jim excused himself after a cup of tea, saying he would go to get her, but it was clearly because he realised I wanted to speak to Mary on her own."

For the next five years Sam would not only supervise and counsel Mary, but (as Pat had done from the start) also keep an eye on the child, who remained a ward of court. Sam had both humour and a sharp eye for what is behind the front people often put on, and she was to take a considerable liking to Jim.

"I felt from the beginning a

'She is an entirely secure and happy child'

kind of inner strength in him which I came to understand is absolutely crucial to Mary," she said. "I watched that little girl over five years: I don't know how Mary does this, but she is an entirely secure and happy child."

"In some way," Sam said, echoing my own feelings, "Mary has made herself into two people for her sake. There is the consistent Mary, capable of what I can only say is excellent, gentle discipline for the child and clear principles, mixed with a lot of gaiety."

"Then there is the other Mary, who has a mind that ranges, helter-skelter, over countless things, unable to hang on to one subject for more than a moment, particularly when she is depressed, and her depression is always about her guilt. In talking to her then, you couldn't catch a hold of a subject she brought up before it had disappeared in a welter of other thoughts."

"And if you wanted to get back to it on another day, that Mary couldn't do it. But the other Mary — the girl's mum — was totally consistent not only in what she did, but also in her thoughts and ideas, which she communicated to the child."

Sam felt that we could not begin to understand how, given the family model of Mary's own childhood, and the fact that her late childhood, adolescence and young adulthood was totally institutional, she has learnt to mother a child.

"I watched her for years," Sam said. "It was my job, but finally it was also my pleasure. It was extremely interesting to me how she, who can stick to nothing for any length of time — jobs, courses, even ideas — was able to create lots of opportunities for the child. It is almost as if she can transfer that buried ability in herself to the child."

"She is very, very loving. Quite tactile, but not overly so, not satisfying her own needs. It is a mixture of allowing the child quite a lot of freedom to do things on her own and with friends, and on the other hand,



Mary Bell as a child: after having her own, she became "a house-proud young woman, shy and warm", says her former probation officer

A good day with grandma

A brief but happy reconciliation between Mary and her mother was followed soon after by Betty's death

IN 1993, the huge public and press interest in the James Bulger case not only caused Mary terrible anguish and guilt, but also caused the press to begin hunting for her again. It was decided that for the protection of herself and her daughter, the family should be moved back to the North East, to an area where Pat Royston knew the chief constable and could trust the local police.

Although Mary and Jim occasionally worked over the next two years, they lived mainly on social security. "I just hated, hated to be there," Mary said. "I hardly saw my mother. I'd become angrier about her after my granny McC's death. She had no right, did she, to alienate me from everybody?"

"The whole family went to granny's funeral. Only I didn't. What must they have thought? That I didn't care? I didn't know any of them. How could they know how much I cared?"

"She did something even worse when Aunt Cath died. I was at her [Betty's] house, and said I was going to pop in to see Auntie Cathleen, and she didn't tell me she was dead. The funeral had been two weeks before. And I popped in like the angel of death, asking for Auntie Cath, and they looked at me as if I was mad."

"I went next door to where her oldest boy lived, my cousin R, and that's where I went berserk. He had a terrible time calming me down. Then we went back and looked at photos with my Uncle Jackie."

"But all that was in me... I had gone on for so long and I was just so weary of it, of her."

But then two things happened. First, about three weeks before Christmas 1994, Betty contacted Mary and

asked to see her and Jim. "She sounded... small," Mary said, "and Jim said we'd meet her at a pub and she asked what we were doing for Christmas, and Jim said why didn't she come spend Christmas with us? And then I did talk to her about the child. She'd only seen her once, as a baby, and I showed her photographs and suggested she meet her before she came for Christmas."

"You are her granny," I said. "There's no way we can have any of that my being your cousin crap," and she nodded, compliant-like, as I'd never seen her."

Mary had told her little girl that her granny was sick and that was why she wasn't around. "So that night when I told her we'd have a day out with her granny she said 'Oh, good. Is she better, then?'"

And I suddenly thought, and Jim did, too, that I didn't have any right to withhold her granny from her mother had to alienate my family from me."

December 27, Mary phoned her that night: there was no reply. "I phoned her on New Year's Eve and there was again no reply."

It is not known exactly when Betty died. "The neighbours saw her on New Year's Eve," Pat Royston said. "They raised the alarm on January 3."

When the police broke in they found her nude in a chair close to the gas fire. The post mortem and inquest concluded she had had peritonitis, but gave pneumonia as the cause of death. She had had some sort of attack, had managed to get up, clear the sheets off the bed and leave them and her nightdress on the bathroom floor. It appeared that she had then cleaned herself and sat down in her chair.

"I know Mary thinks she wanted to die," Pat said. "But the police didn't think it was suicide. There were vegetables ready to cook on the stove. The telephone was within reach, and she had this good friend downstairs: had she shouted, she would have been heard — but it's true, she didn't shout."

Did you think that asking to stay with you for Christmas was her way of saying goodbye? I asked Mary.

"Yes, yes..." she said, tentatively.

It's good that you and Jim and your little girl gave her these two days, isn't it? I said.

"She gave them to me, sort of," she said. "At the funeral I

was at the front. All the family were there.

"But I never got any closer to my sisters. I did finally see my sisters. They were polite, but I knew they didn't — couldn't — want me in their lives. Our lives had been too different. I think I can understand theirs, but they cannot possibly understand mine."

"We are strangers and too much time has gone by. I do wish it wasn't so, but it is."

"A week after my mother's death I went to her flat on my own. I sat there, waiting. I don't know what for. Not a visitation, not voices... I think I was hoping, waiting for an imaginary pat on the head, something like a 'well done, but nothing came. I just wanted... she put her hand on her stomach, "... to feel and then I thought 'Oh, ****. You come to me. You came into my home, played at grandma and then you go away and die the first time you had been a normal person around me..."

"And then Jim rang and said come home, and I nodded 'Yes, I will!'"

Extracted from *Cries Unheard* by Gitta Sereny, published by Macmillan. Times readers can buy a copy of the book for £18 instead of the RRP of £20 by calling Times Bookshop on 0900 134459.



Mary with her mother, Betty

TOMORROW

In her powerful conclusion, Gitta Sereny explains why we must listen to our children and calls for the legal system to be changed

IN THE spring of 1970 a strange thing happened. I received an anonymous letter with a Newcastle postmark, enclosing a poem. In the three-line note that accompanied it, the sender claimed that it was a poem Mary had written and sent to her mother, and the note ended: "Sister Cath has seen it."

I immediately telephoned Betty's sister, Cath, who confirmed that she had seen the poem and that Betty had told her it was Mary's. But she hadn't sent it to me, she said, and couldn't think who had. As far as she knew, nobody except herself and Betty had seen it.

Although I am certain now that it was Betty who sent the poem, neither I nor anyone else saw it then and the only reason to doubt that Mary had written it, and the psychiatrist I was in contact with throughout the research for my first book, found it not only an extraordinary poem for a 13-year-old, but considered it a very important step in Mary's development.

When Mary and I talked for the first time in 1995, months before we started to work together, she said she had been told about a poem, but said she knew nothing about it. When I realised

THE GUILTY ONE IS YOU NOT ME

later that she had actually never read all, or even much of the book, I gave her the poem to read:

"MAM
I know that in my heart
From you once was not apart
My love for you grows
More each day
When you visit me mam
I'd weep once, your away
I look into your eyes. So Blue and
they're very sad, you try to be very
cheery But I know you think I'm Bad so Bad
though I really don't know. If you
feel the same,
and treat it as a silly game.
A child who had made criminal fame
Please mam put my tiny mind at ease
tell Judge and Jury on your knees
they will LISTEN to your cry of PLEAS

I sorry IT HAS TO BE this way
Well both cry and you will go away
to other gates were you are free
locked up in prison cells,
Your family are wee,
these last words I speak, on behalf
of dad P.....and me
tell them you are guilty
Please, so then mam, I'll be free.
Daughter
Mary

"No, no, no..." she said, sounding distraught even while reading it. "I never, my God, I never wrote that. It's hers..." It had never occurred to me, I told her, that Betty could have written the poem. But what was most important was that if it was not Mary who had written it, but her mother, who had then felt moved to send it to me, it would have been a huge admission on her mother's part of her guilt, and her own cry for help.

Didn't Mary agree? "Well, yes, but it's not what she ever said to me. To me she only said for all those years that what she had to hide from the world was being my mother. She'd say: 'Jesus was only nailed to the cross. I'm being hammered.'"

"It's pathetic," she said, suddenly sounding angry. "That people would believe that I wrote this. I mean, anything I wrote was censored, and everything I received was censored and signed by the censor. How could I have written this without it being noticed and then discussed with me? Mr Dixon discussed everything with me. Why wasn't it analysed? You know, why wasn't the handwriting analysed?"

I said that as no one except her Aunt Cath had seen it until I published it in my book, it would never have occurred to anybody to doubt that Mary had written it if her mother said she had, unless they were suspicious to start with. "Well, isn't that pathetic, too?" she asked.

"How was it possible..." she asked once again, in a mixture of anger and helplessness, "that they, you know, the social services and all these clever people, knew nothing about me, about her?"

A little can mean so much

When you are weary of pain and fearful of the unknown, little things can mean so much.

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In 1946 Cyril Connolly asked a score of his fellow writers to respond to a questionnaire. There were six questions, beginning with: "How much do you think a writer needs to live on?" His contributors included John Bejman, George Orwell, Robert Graves and Dylan Thomas. It was a bright idea.

Recently, Alain de Botton had the bright idea of imitating the idea. He sent out the same questionnaire to double the number of writers and, via Waterstones and Arts Council, has come up with a little compilation, *The Cost of Letters*. His contributors include Beryl Bainbridge, Julian Barnes, Margaret Forster, Victoria Glendinning, Shena Mackay, Will Self, Rose Tremain and Simon Armitage.

I doubt if it will deter anyone from attempting a life as a writer, although there is little comfort for a beginner in most of the answers to part two of the final question which asks: "Have you any specific advice to give young people who

wish to earn their living by writing?" I suspect it will become an intriguing reference book for those who cannot be deterred and fun for readers who like to graze on writers.

Connolly's 1946 effort came directly out of his own anxieties. Money worries were the biggest — "Enemies of promise," he thought. De Botton's sequel comes out of his own elegant probing into literature and ideas: "It is one thing to be poor and convinced of the worth of one's work, far harder to combine poverty with an awareness that book isn't going to come." And it is one thing to be a poor writer, another to be a poor person, as literary works to be rather cheered by the spectacle of writers who have run around pursuing a goal they themselves secretly have coveted."


The degree of openness surprised me. When I faced the

questionnaire and wondered how to answer "How much do you think a writer needs to live on?" my first feeling was — that's my business. Then I read some of the 1946 contributions and thought that if they could play the game then I could. Which I did and so did the others.

Some are very specific — Armitage, for instance, says that when he lived in a rented house on his own he got by on about £6,000 a year: "At some point in my life it suited me to be skint." Bairdridge gives us a flat audit: "For the past twenty-eight years, my income was as follows: £7.10 alimony for self and two children plus, lest you're weeping, a three-storey house in Camden Town, mortgage paid for six years. No advances and an income of £3,600 a year."

There was much agreement on how much a writer needs to live

MELVYN BRAGG



writer needs, only as much as anyone else, to live on." A.L. Kennedy. Which is what I said - although I wish I had owned up, as Sebastian Faulks did, that a writer needs "slightly more than most people. He apparently needs to drink more alcohol."

I was relieved, I confess, by answers to the question: "Do you think literature suffers from the diversion of a writer's energy into other employments, or is inspired by it?" Barbara and I gave such answers. I was glad that my first sentence - "This depends on the writer" - echoed his complete answer: "It depends what sort of writer you are and how much energy you have." I went on to say that you can construct any cases you want by taking models from the past. Fielding. Trollope. T.S. Eliot, an army of teachers and journalists all went out to mow

and great books were written. Yet you always wonder.

My own writing life has been lived in the belief that if you are lucky enough to do work you enjoy then it can give energy, not take it away. For a novelist especially it is important to know what is going on in the outside world from the inside. But I admit that my faith has often been stalked by doubts.

My relief, then, when approached vindication when A.S. Byatt answered: "I think literature is on the whole enriched by writers doing other things than writing." "Enriched," quoth Faulks also. "Having no job and all day to write seems to be a recipe for disaster," Forster said. According to Tintin Parks, a writer needs rancour and "employment has the advantage of nourishing this most vital of

impulses". Treiman came at it another way: "Literature needs ideas. Whatever can furnish a writer with original ideas should be the thing that is sought."

I admit that I have been very selective. Many agreed with Michael Holroyd that "serious writing is a fulltime job." Or, Bernice Rubens: "As far as I can see the only drawback to secondary employment is loss of time. And, as a corollary of that, a loss of continuity. A writer needs both." Blake Morrison's answer began: "The danger of being consumed by the day job . . ." — and my old anxieties grumbled away again.

There is plenty to pick at. Connolly, of course, used "he" throughout, which marks him as no more than a man of his time. He also used the phrase "serious writers" in the knowledge that it was not only acceptable but widely understood. That, too, is questioned in this new anthology. In fact, there's an essay to be written on the questions that writers ask of the questions Connolly set.

A movie hat-trick is going to make it hard for Joseph Fiennes to keep a low profile, says Daniel Rosenthal

The release on Friday of the romantic comedy *Martha — Meet Frank, Daniel and Laurence* will secure Joseph Fiennes's admission to the burgeoning Britpack of twentysomething film actors with pin-up looks and unmistakable screen presence.

Same genes, same classical role, same leading lady — no wonder Fiennes shrugs and mutters “inevitable” when, midway through the interview, his big brother is finally mentioned.

The first thing to say about *Martha — Meet...* is that Joseph exudes an easy-going

**‘ With
film there’s
this
terrifying
beast of
publicity ’**

warmth which you will not detect in any of Ralph's cool, intellectually aloof screen appearances. As Laurence, the hesitant bridge teacher who forms the most credible side of the movie's improbable love rectangle, he provides a welcome foil to Rufus Sewell's Frank, a Withnail-esque actor, and Tom Hollander's Daniel, an obnoxious record company executive.

During a coincidence-packed 48 hours in London, this trio, best mates since boyhood, are all smitten by

Martha (blonde Julia Roberts lookalike Monica Potter), who has fled her native Minneapolis in search of a fresh start.

Flemes is the film's greatest asset, yet he really wanted to play Frank or Daniel. "The dynamic of those parts is much greater," he says. "Until the last quarter of the story, Laurence only exists through Frank and Daniel, and I was worried about appearing too passive and boring."

During filming he found it hard to identify with Laurence's big dilemma—having to choose between Marina and his pals—because his own upbringing meant he has no friendships dating back as far as his characters. His photographer father, Mark, and novelist mother, Jennifer (who died of cancer in 1993), uprooted the family to various parts of the West Country, Ireland and London more than a dozen times: useful training, perhaps, for a career which requires you to assume a new identity every few months.

Martha — Meet... the second feature from former RSC director Nick Hamm, is being pushed on to 160 screens (more than any Film Four release since *Trainspotting*), so no one can suggest that, because he is in a British movie, Flennies is not being given a fair chance to charm a mass audience.

Elizabeth will bring opportunity number two, and he has almost finished shooting the Tom Stoppard-scripted *Shakespeare in Love*, in which he plays a 29-year-old play-

wright called Will", who falls in love with Gwyneth Paltrow and may or may not be Shakespeare. This is some hattrick — though it seems less enviable when you listen to him profess his fear of fame.

"My only goal when I went to drama school was to do classical theatre and 'hold hands' with great writers," he explains. "Now, with film, there is this terrifying beast of publicity which launches you forwards. I wonder whether the speed of my career is being

determined through people trying to suck up the new young talent, or by the quality of my work. In film it all boils down to money. You are just a commodity which is manipulated."

Hollywood, whose "beast of publicity" has a far greater appetite than Britain's, has already beckoned, and he rolls his eyes at the memory of one studio executive's unsuccessful advances. "I was in this guy's office in LA two years ago and he said: 'Love your work, Joe,

love your work.' I'm thinking, wow, he came all the way to watch me as Christ in *Son of Man* at the Barbican. I asked what he'd seen in me and he replied: 'Nothing'—without a flicker of irony. I thought, OK, that's how it works."

Memories of the "disgusting" tabloid coverage which greeted Ralph's divorce from Alex Kingston, and subsequent relationship with Francesca Annis, does nothing to temper his wariness of life in the public eye. The recent

break-up of his six-year relationship with actress Sarah Griffiths could pass unremarked, but the question of who he is or is not dating may soon become earth-shatteringly important to certain papers.

His sympathy for Ralph's media exposure is matched by admiration for him "as an actor and as a brother. He has a formidable command of language on stage, a great understanding of metre, and this extraordinary command on celluloid."

Sooner or later a producer will try to cast the pair side by side, in some kind of *Fabulous* Finneas Boys scenario, perhaps with both competing for the same woman. Joseph suggests that the seven-year age difference makes that an unlikely prospect. Not, surely, if they can find themselves *lo* separate screen romances with Blanchett? "Well, maybe my getting Elizabeth was just a really uninspired casting," he says. "Maybe they thought I was Ralph."

CONCERTS: Rattle meshes with Mahler; experience and youth in tandem; plus 30 years of the King's Singers

Hearing how the future works

A different spin on tradition

One way of responding to the problem of the last movement of Mahler's Seventh Symphony is to get through it as quickly as possible: the idea being that, even if it still seems weak in material and repetitious in construction, it will soon be out of the way at least. But, in one of his last concerts in his last season as music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Simon Rattle demonstrated that, at a moderate tempo, it is one of the most interesting of all Mahler's finales.

ment. It was not until Rattle was well into the exposition, in a miraculously scored passage in B minor featuring multi-divided strings, that he began to get in touch with the unique inspiration of this particular work.

But, once he had made that contact — with the actual texture of the music as well as its melodic surface and rhythmic motivation — he did not lose it. The orchestra, exposed in the finest detail and in all clarity, did not lose its nerve either.

The point about the Seventh

as this interpretation so persuasively confirmed, was that Mahler heard the future here. And it wasn't only his younger friends and contemporaries who were echoing in eerie anticipation in Symphony Hall: the later Richard Strauss was prominent and the Bartók of the *Concerto for Orchestra* was perceptible too.

The two "Night Music" movements are, of course, irresistible in the intimacy of their expression and the sophistication of their chamber-scale scoring, just as the central scherzo is formidable for its nightmare visions. The CBSO performance missed little in shading the colours and realising the acoustic at-

die movements, least of all in a well-balanced and wittily phrased *Andante amoroso*.

But the discovery of the basic inspiration was that neither Mahler's texture of inspiration nor his sense of humour failed as he reached the finale. He was not reaching desperately for the nearest bit of Wagner or Mozart (or even Elgar?) to help him out. Taken at a basic tempo which allows time for the registration of the fine detail, the last movement goes on not only to illuminate still more unexplored aspects of orchestral sound, but also to exuberate in the joys of friendly parody and effortless technical mastery.

GERALD JARNER

Over the years the King's Singers have changed hairstyles and even personnel, but in most other respects they have remained constant. As the group's 30th anniversary concert proved, they are still unmatched for their sheer musicality and ability to entertain.

The basic ingredients of their act are unchanged. As in 1968, the ensemble consists of two countertenors, two baritones, a tenor and a bass, while the style is still based on a mixture of traditionally English choral sound, acute pro-

dition

King's Singers Wigmore Hall

the Choral Dances from *Gloriana*.

Putting the fun back into early music has long been a speciality of the group, and few works in their repertoire can be more enthusiastic than the anonymous *La Tricotee* *Samaritan*. *La bomba*, a King's Singers' party-piece by the 16th-century Catalanian Matxo Flecha, received a humorous performance too, though perhaps by now some of the

A VISIT by an old-fashioned maestro like Lorin Maazel is a rare enough occasion to produce a frisson in London. He comes steeped in the traditions of Bayreuth, Vienna, Cleveland and Pittsburgh. And his current orchestra, the Bavarian Radio Symphony, brought the grand virtuosity and crushed velvet sound for which it is famous.

Beethoven grandeur

discovered an extraordinary voice but not fully explored all its possibilities. A few moments stood out before the first movement recapitulation she entered into a dream-like state, and following brilliant first cadenza, she relaxed once again to produce an interesting hiatus.

The programme ended with an overwhelming performance of Beethoven's

show will. Yet, as they should
camp on their 15-stop national
tour with Evelyn Glennie,
beginning in Bath on May 19,
they are always in search of
new works and ways of pre-
sented them. Composers as
distinguished as Ligeti and
Berio have written for the
King's Singers in the past.

polished, but again too knowing, was their chance of Goffredo's deliberately positive *Nonsense Songs of Lear*, remarkable for translations of limericks Italian. Yet before the

Mazael reined in the *Egmont* overture, giving the opening phrases a portentous largesse. The sense of spaciousness was heightened by the sustained string sound, and a tendency to drag slightly behind the beat. But when he unleashed its raging power, the excitement was intense.

Mazael stood back in Beethoven's Violin Concerto, where a certain heaviness crept in, somewhat at odds with the fresh, incisive playing of the 18-year-old American violinist Hillary Hahn. She has the magnificent attack, beefy sound and technical ease of the best Curtis Institute

graduates, Leila Josefowicz being another. But there is no glitz about Hahn. From the moment she stepped on stage, she communicated an unconscious enjoyment.

Her wonderfully natural delivery was a joy to witness. Her intonation is razor sharp, articulation flawless and, bowing very near the bridge, she produces a penetrating, at times unforgiving, sound as if, like a young soprano, she has

wrenching performance of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. Despite a ragged start, the mix of long heavy bowing and highly expressive winds defined the powerful first movement, and the Bavarian bassists confirmed Weber's opinion of the "madhouse" ending by producing a thunderously threatening ostinato. Most moving was the melancholy Alleluia, played by a superlative violin section whose surging climax had a visionary quality. Maazel lingered over its fugue, and again over the gentle trio but let rip in a demonic final allegro.

This concert opened with the calm serenity of Adrian Willaert's *Ave virgo, sponsa Dei*. The perfect blend of voices — no "hooting" counter-tenor tone here — and exact ensemble allowed the music to unfold steadily and with increasing intensity. Other early 16th-century pieces were complemented by Britten's evocation of a stately lute.

and familiar encourages their hilarious over-the-top performances by former members of the group, there is something new: Jason Mraz is specially commissioned to perform *The Jungle Book*, an entertaining collage of songs in styles which must include history by bringing in a pelia elephants and shopping vultures onto the stage of the Wigmore Hall.

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هكذا من الأصل

Give a dog of war a bad name

Mercenaries can have a vital role in peacekeeping, says Jeffrey Lee

*These, in the day when heaven was falling,
The hour when earth's foundations fled,
Followed their mercenary calling
And took their wages and are dead.*

*Their shoulders held the sky suspended;
They stood, and earth's foundations stayed,
What God abandoned, these defended,
And saved the sum of things for pay.*

The second oldest profession has become very unfashionable since A.E. Housman wrote his *Epitaph on an army of mercenaries*. Mercenaries have become reviled as "dogs of war". Their image has been that of the Congo freebooters of the 1960s, or the war junkies who got their kicks around Croatia and Bosnia in the 1990s.

Any self-respecting government, at least in public, has wanted nothing to do with them. That is largely why the Foreign Office is now so keen to deny allegations that it approved the activities of the London-based mercenary outfit Sandline International in Sierra Leone, even though these activities consist in helping a democratically elected government against an illegal junta.

It is a shame that the Government should still be embarrassed about dealing with mercenaries because the growth in private military companies (PMCs), as they like to call themselves, could be seen as a positive development. British companies such as Sandline and DSL, along with the American MPRI and the South African Executive Outcomes are making an impact from Croatia to the Congo. These modern military entrepreneurs might do it for the money, but they have proved to be forces for good in a number of countries abandoned, if not by God, then certainly by his nebulous regent on Earth "the international community". Sierra Leone is one such country.

In 1995, after years of civil war, a rebel force was on the verge of capturing Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown. Given that the advancing rebels favoured chopping limbs off anyone who disagreed with them, the possibility of them taking power was regarded with trepidation by the general populace. The government of the time hired Executive Outcomes to save the day. They destroyed the besieging army, then carried the war to the interior, forcing the rebels to sue for peace. Democratic elections followed, resulting in the election of Ahmed Tejan Kabbah as president.

In January 1997 (and perhaps a little impetuously in hindsight), President Kabbah ended Executive Outcomes' contract. Just weeks later, the Government was overthrown by soldiers in league with the very rebels Executive Outcomes had kept in check. Nigerian peacekeeping troops were defeated by the rebels, who embarked on a year-long spree of violence. This ended only when another mercenary company became involved.

Sandline International was

hired by the deposed President Kabbah and provided the Nigerians with the vital methods, material and morale to launch a successful counter-offensive. Sandline claims that the UK authorities were well aware of this operation and that any arms embargo did not apply to the legitimate, internationally recognised regime which they restored.

Sierra Leone is not the only recent example of PMCs helping to end a seemingly intractable conflict. In 1993, Angola had been at war for almost 20 years before. Executive Outcomes proved the decisive factor in defeating UNITA.

In the former Yugoslavia, the American firm MPRI was essential to the reshaping of Croatia's armed forces that preceded their swift annihilation of secessionist Serbs in 1995.

Despite the widespread distaste for their business, the success of PMCs has begun to force international bodies to appreciate their effectiveness and efficiency in peacekeeping and similar operations. The IMF approved Sierra Leone's contract with Executive Outcomes (good value at just \$14 million (£9 million) a year) and the UN has seriously considered hiring Sandline to provide security for operations in the Congo.

PMCs certainly seem attractive when the alternatives are considered. In Somalia and Congo, UN agencies ended up paying venal local gunmen for security. UN peacekeeping efforts all too often turn into multi-billion dollar failures, bedevilled by confusion of lines of command and rules of engagement. In Angola, the UN mission cost more than a million dollars a day, and it didn't work. Executive Outcomes cost the Angolan government just \$40 million, and it did.

Another step towards an open discussion of what military companies have to offer was taken recently in a paper written for the International Institute for Strategic Studies. In it, David Shearer argues that military companies will grow in importance and that it is time for governments to engage with them. The companies agree. In South Africa, Executive Outcomes has welcomed a Bill controlling its activities. In the UK, Sandline has called for regulation of the private military sector and has requested UN observers to be assigned to its missions.

I have seen people in Sierra Leone calling mercenaries "angels and saviours". Out in the wider world mercenaries still have a bad name though, so the Government must prepare for criticism if it has been involved with Sandline in Sierra Leone. But if it is brave, it will argue that this is a good example of its ethical foreign policy in action. After all, if someone can save the sum of things, as mercenaries seem to have done in Sierra Leone, why not pay them? And if the Foreign Office did turn a blind eye to those mercenaries helping a democratically elected government defeat a vile junta, well, bully for them!

The author is foreign editor of Channel 4 news.

French arrogance and German and British weakness have produced a grotesque and costly surrender

The cowardly compromise over the presidency of the European Central Bank is a scandal, a disgrace and a disaster. It is a scandal because it shows that nothing, but nothing, really counts in the European Union except the crude assertion of national will.

It is contrary to the Treaty of Maastricht, which provided that the president of the bank would serve an eight-year term, precisely in order to protect its independence. It demonstrates, even before the bank has come into existence, that it will not be politically independent: it has politicised the bank from the beginning. It shows that France, against the treaty and against the will of all her European partners, is prepared to impose a unilateral French decision. France will pay for that.

It also shows the weakness, weakness, weakness of successive British governments. How badly we continue to play the European game, repeatedly appealing forces that are hostile to our view of the world. The Prime Minister was actually in the chair when the grotesque surrender of giving Wim Duisenberg, the Dutch candidate, only half a term and France the other half, was accepted.

This was a French invasion of the independence of the bank. Tony Blair should have fought it to the end. What he has actually agreed to is every bit as feeble as the "compromise" when John Major vetoed the appointment of Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgium Euro-federalist Prime Minister, as president of the commission, only to agree to the appointment of Jacques Santer, the equally Euro-federalist Prime Minister of Luxembourg. It is as though General Wolff, on the Heights of Abraham, had given the order: "Don't run away until you see the whites of their eyes."

Britain does not matter in Europe, or does not matter much. Germany

All Europe will pay for this folly

matters a great deal. The Maastricht Treaty sandbagged the mark to give France greater power over the European currency system. Helmut Kohl has always promised the German people the euro would be as good as the mark. He has comprehensively and totally failed to meet that promise: he will pay the price for that. So will Germany.

Germany has allowed 11 European nations, including Belgium and Italy which have debts far outside the Maastricht criteria, to join the single currency on the first round. Some of these nations have had weak currencies for most of the 20th century. The Germans have sacrificed their strong currency and their strong central bank for a currency based on much weaker economies and for a politicised central bank. When faced with the arrogance and obstinacy of President Chirac, Chancellor Kohl had given in.

This will be electorally important. The Germans have never tolerated weakness in their leaders: Herr Kohl has survived so long because he was more than a bit of a bully, and was seen to force his projects through against any opposition. Now the bully has been bullied, and by his French ally, on whom for more than a decade he has based his European policy.

Perhaps Tony Blair, with his high popularity, will suffer little from a European defeat — he is not the first British Prime Minister to be defeated

in Brussels. Chancellor Kohl is already far behind Gerhard Schröder and the SPD in the polls and faces a federal election in the autumn. He cannot afford this humiliation. It was already probable that the CDU would be defeated. The recent elections in Saxony-Anhalt were disastrous for them, partly because of East German resentment at the loss of the mark. Now there is no defence. Herr Schröder is beginning to look in almost as strong a position as was Tony Blair six months before the 1997

William Rees-Mogg

election. The result for the CDU could be catastrophic. An old, weakened and ineffective Chancellor, who has been in power too long, has presided over the highest postwar unemployment and has destroyed his nation's proudest asset, cannot afford to be stabbed in the back by his closest ally, *Et tu, Chirac*.

Yet as usual with him, it is Chirac who has made the stupidest blunder. His Europe makes no sense at all. The balance of power in Europe is not one in which France can sustain this grotesque pseudo-Napoleonic role; at best, Chirac is Napoleonic not in the

sense of Bonaparte but of Napoleon III. He is not "le bulldozer", as the French used to call him, but a bulldog puffing himself up as the master of the farmyard.

After this Brussels meeting every country in the EU owes France a black eye. For the first time in his premiership, Tony Blair has been made to look weak and ineffective. He will not relish that. The Dutch, who are the most useful nation in Europe, have been deprived of their prize. The bank has been politicised before it begins.

France will pay for these resentments, for France is not the dominating European power of the 17th or 18th centuries, but is secondary to the strength of Germany. Bismarck in 1870 settled the relative power ranking of France and Germany, and nothing has happened to change that since.

France will need to watch Germany, Gerhard Schröder, who is close to Tony Blair both personally and in policies, will in all probability be the next Chancellor of Germany. He has become convinced that it is now too late to save the mark; that is a correct judgment. Until he came to that conclusion he was remarkably sceptical about the single currency. He will come to power, possibly with a large majority, partly because the CDU has exchanged a strong mark for a politicised euro. He will have drawn his own conclusions from the arrogance of French policy, and the

French determination to seize control of the finances of Europe. He will have seen Chancellor Kohl humiliated in Brussels, and will himself have benefited from the resentment that will cause in Germany.

Politics is politics, though President Chirac is not sensitive to political equations. Gerhard Schröder is a tough-minded, modern political leader who will come to power with a mandate to re-balance the Franco-German equation in Germany's favour. He will not have much choice about that. The growing German Right will be the beneficiaries if he proves to be too soft on France. He will have been elected because of the failure of Kohl's policy. He will need to appear strong in front of the German people.

In politics, as in physics, each action produces an equal and contrary reaction. Gerhard Schröder will be the contrary reaction, but he will not merely be equal. Germany is far stronger than France, and most of the countries of the European Union are on Germany's side.

Damage has been done all round, to the idea of central bank independence, to confidence in the euro, to economic and monetary union, to Europe as a society of equals, to European democracy, to Dutch pride, to Britain, to Germany, but most of all to France. What happened in the early hours of yesterday morning was an assertion by the French government that France is Europe.

When Bismarck was alive, Germany appeared on the maps of Europe as the "Prussian Empire". Chirac seems to be trying to turn the European Union into the "French Empire". There is a French phrase for President Chirac's policy over the Presidency of the Central Bank. It is "folie de grandeur".

A silver lining to the euro

Blair sees a chance for British leadership, says Peter Riddell

Tony Blair believes the main lesson of this weekend's lengthy wrangling in Brussels is that Britain needs to be even more closely engaged in the European Union. The Franco-German dispute over the European Central Bank is for him an opportunity, not an excuse smugly to say good riddance. Yet his Government has rejected the chance to play a leading role in monetary union by saying it will not consider entry for another three or four years.

World weary Euro-enthusiasts say we have been here before. Offered the opportunity, and indeed pressed, to join earlier moves towards European integration, Britain has stood apart. This has been a consistent theme from the Schuman plan of 1950, through the negotiations of 1955-57 leading to the Treaty of Rome, and to the formation of the European Monetary System in 1978-79.

The British attitude was vividly summed up by Russell Bretherton, the Whitehall representative at the crucial Messina talks of 1955: "The future treaty which you are discussing has no chance of being agreed; if it was agreed, it would have no chance of being ratified; and if it were ratified, it would have no chance of being applied. And if it was applied, it would be totally unacceptable to Britain." (That has, in varying ways, been the attitude of the Tory leadership.) Britain has paid a price, both in developments not to our liking (notably the common agricultural policy) and by eventually joining at the wrong time.

The Government is unquestionably more positive now. It wants the euro to succeed, and sees no objections in principle to joining. After the



bumbled statement six months ago on timing, Gordon Brown has recently sounded more enthusiastic. His comments over the past few days increasingly justify the claim by Jacques Santer, the commission president, that "it is not a question of if they will join, but when". Indeed, the five tests of convergence laid down by Mr Brown are largely subjective, depending on political judgment at the time. Britain will join EMU early in the next Parliament, if it is successful. Interest rates converge and the British economy is stable.

Mr Blair agrees on this strategy with Mr Brown, but his language has been more opaque. He wants to play the issue long. He sees no need to declare his hand now, when a referendum could be at least three years away. His priority is to estab-

lish Labour in office in order to win a second term, and then face the single currency decision. He at times appears above the fray, almost deliberately leaving the Chancellor in the lead, a "hard cop/soft cop" version of the Tony and Gordon show.

I doubt, however, that the Government will be able to control events in such a gradual, planned way. The euro cannot be put to one side to suit Labour's electoral timetable. It is anyway misleading to talk of being in or out. The City and business are going to be involved — as shown by the opening of some London financial markets on today's bank holiday. As last week's report from the Commons Treasury Committee noted, several big companies intend to use the euro

in transactions with domestic suppliers, and leading retailers will accept euros when notes and coins are introduced in four years. So the euro is likely to become a parallel currency in use in Britain well before any referendum. Sharp movements in the pound, possibly both up and down, will increase calls for early entry.

Mr Brown is already stepping up the Government's preparatory work. This is intended to answer industry's complaint that its willingness to make the necessary big investments for a single currency depend on the Government showing that it is getting the public sector ready, itself a costly exercise.

Mr Blair will also not be able to maintain for ever his balancing act, reassuring other European leaders in private of his support for EMU, while

keeping the backing of right-wing commentators and sceptic papers who claim that his instincts are with them. The longer this continues, the louder the cries of betrayal from current sceptic allies will eventually be. Mr Blair's advisers believe that they will win round Rupert Murdoch, since he is a "pragmatist", though *The Sun* has consistently expressed its populist, nationalist opposition to EMU. The Blair camp at least hopes to retain the support of *The Sun* at the next election by isolating EMU as an issue through the promise of a referendum.

The Government will have to give a lead well before the election if it is to persuade the public. Recent polls suggest that firm opponents heavily outweigh committed supporters, but nearly half the public has a more conditional view, depending on how the euro works and what the Government says.

Mr Blair will, I believe, steadily offer more of a lead. He is at heart a realist about power and will listen to what is being said by businessmen and by other European leaders. That is where his reading of the European central bank argument is so revealing. Earlier attempts by the Chancellor to broker a compromise were rebuffed by France and Germany who told Mr Brown to keep out, even on Friday. The episode has exposed tensions not only between Bonn and Paris but also within the faltering Kohl government.

Britain has often come a cropper in the past two decades when it has over eagerly tried to exploit Franco-German differences, which have proved to be temporary. But Mr Blair believes that the weekend's events show that there is obviously no leadership in Europe unless it is provided by Britain, with one of its few stable governments.

Such talk often irritates other countries, and there are limits to Britain's influence as long as we stay out of EMU. Yet there is a chance for Mr Blair. The Brussels summit has, in the short-term, underlined the divisions of Europe, but, in the long-term, may push the Blair Government towards closer involvement.

Still waiting

SIR PETER HALL has given up *Waiting For Godot*. The multi-garlanded theatre director has fallen out with the New York executors of Samuel Beckett's literary estate over his failed plans to bring *Godot* to Broadway. Sir Peter, who premiered the play as a young Turk director in the 1950s, and revived it for a triumphant run at the Old Vic last year, says Beckett's representatives on earth demanded "onerous" fees and imposed "unreasonable" restrictions on the production.

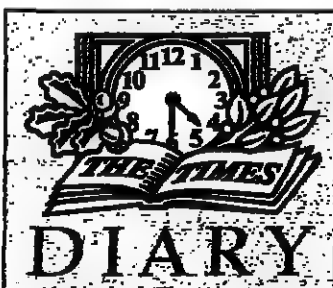
The Old Vic run starred Ben Kingsley and Alan Howard as the tragicomic tramps awaiting a man who never arrives. Since last year Sir Peter has been holding his own, futile, vigil for a transfer. The Broadway run was meant to have begun in January, with Kingsley reprising his role. When Kingsley withdrew, the run was re-scheduled for March 1999. Now all plans have been scrapped after claims by Sir Peter that Beckett's people demanded 10 per cent of the box office takings, and imposed creative restrictions "that all but made the production impossible".

One Lourdes Lopez, who handles Beckett's affairs in America, pleads innocence: "He stopped the negotiations, not us. Our conclusion was that he no longer wanted to be in negotiation." Sir Peter insists otherwise, and says he has been "deeply hurt" by his treatment in the States. "I do feel very aggrieved," he



grows. "I'm sure if Sam was alive this would never have happened."

MORE news on the flying bish The Right Rev David Stancil, Bishop of Salisbury, who is thumping a ride on an Army chopper on Friday so he can hobnob with the Queen and speak to trainee clergy on the same night, is making arrangements for his return journey. His chauffeur has been asking the way to the north London college in case Stancil wants to be whisked back to



Salisbury after he has spoken. That would be a 260-mile round trip. No wonder the average annual bill for a diocesan bishop is now £160,000.

Sore Foot

FOR once, Michael Foot had a bad May Day. The former Labour leader was due to hand his publisher his latest book, a political study of the atom bomb, on May 1, but as he was nearing completion he took the tumble that broke his shoulder. "I had almost finished it when I had this fall," says Foot, still a revered icon of the Left. "It's very difficult to work with my arm in a sling, and it is going to be like that for a few more weeks. I have had to postpone everything."

His waiting publishers, Victor



تكننا من الأصل

Gollancz, also brought out *Guilty Men*, his scathing attack on British appeasers, written as a young firebrand journalist in 1940. Foot's new work, which draws on chummy chats he has recently had with Robert McNamara, the former American Defence Secretary, will cover the Aldermaston marches, the global arms race, and the debates over unilateral disarmament which haunted his leadership in the Eighties.

With typical spirit, the veteran ban-bomber insists he will be finished by early summer — not bad for a poorly 84-year-old.

Novel ideas

JACKIE COLLINS, the bracing novelist, is doing what she does best: spilling secrets. Her latest work of High Art, *My Friends' Secrets*, is being bashed out at the moment, and will apparently contain the beauty tips of such luminous Hollywood celebrities as Lauren Hutton, Jane Seymour, Goldie Hawn and Gina Lollobrigida (pictured left). But will her sister Joan pass on the secrets of her own, eternal youth?

Bank on Tony

AS London's mayoral candidates jockey for position, I hear disturbing sounds from the capital's museums. Crusty admin-types, already urged to widen access to their institutions, fear they will face in-

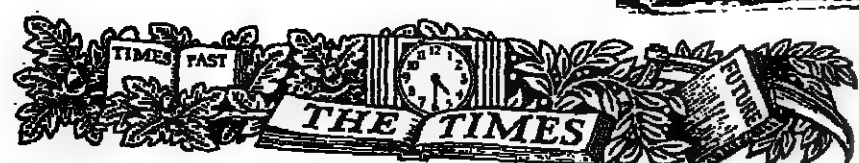


creased pressure to admit hoi polloi if the Government goes ahead with plans to give some of them to the mayor's new London authority. One museum director worries this will mean "more screaming children", but Lord St John of Fawley, chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, has a solution: "Tony Banks for Mayor. He is a real friend of the arts, and so intelligent."



SIR COLIN MARSHALL, the BA chairman, was plucked next to Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, at a meeting in the City. Asked a question perhaps more pertinent to Sir Colin, she responded: "Perhaps that should be directed to the left of me." Sir Colin replied: "I have been described as many things — but never to the left of Margaret Beckett."

EDWARD WELSH



DAYLIGHT ROBBERY

Blair has connived in a shameful political hold-up

On paper, the European Central Bank set up to manage the single currency is the most independent in the world, enjoying an immunity from political scrutiny which even the mighty Federal Reserve cannot claim. Germany, it was clear at Maastricht, would accept nothing less as its price for abolishing the mark. In today's European Union, "on paper" means it has now been publicly demonstrated, no more than politicians in a hurry wish it to mean. The 12-hour farce enacted in Brussels over the weekend has debased the coinage of EU treaties, just as this display of spinelessness may debase the credibility of the new currency itself.

No one comes out of this mess unscathed — not even France, which would appear triumphantly to have crowned its eight-year campaign to end the dominance of the Bundesbank and the mark by fashioning an ECB that will dance to France's tune. For now that governments have improbably succeeded in sowing doubt about the ECB where none existed, the bank will feel constrained to prove its bona fides by turning the deafest of ears to pleas about growth and jobs when it sets interest rates.

Helmut Kohl, whose passion for European integration is less and less shared by his countrymen, surrendered the one point of principle on which Germans believed him to be unshakable. Well might he call those hours in Brussels his "most difficult"; he returns to an uphill election campaign knowing that he will not be forgiven. Jacques Santer's rush to certify the compatibility of this fudge with the Maastricht treaty will greatly weaken the European Commission's authority when it next attempts to bring a government to book for breaching EU laws. The euro's birth defects will cause headaches not only for the 11 EMU members, but those outside, like Britain, which trade extensively with the coming single currency area.

As for Tony Blair, whose deal this was as current British president of the council, he has sullied his reputation for plain dealing by declaring that Wim Duisenberg's "voluntary" statement about stepping down early as ECB president preserves "the sanctity" of the Maastricht treaty. It manifestly does no such thing. The treaty specifically lays down that the ECB president shall be elected to serve an eight-year term. Now it is to be split — entirely so that a Frenchman can take the helm in 2002. So much for legality; and so much for the claims that the ECB would be immune to political gamesmanship.

Consider the statement that Mr Blair finds so satisfactory. It was one of those "spontaneous" utterances that lawyers draft for clients who have clearly lost their case. Mr Duisenberg said that he would not want to serve his full term "in view of my age". This was, he said, "my decision and my decision alone and it is entirely of my own free will and mine alone and it was not under pressure from anyone." As prose, this is hardly confidence-inspiring. As a guide to Mr Duisenberg's future firmness under fire, it is even less so. If Mr Duisenberg thought his powers would soon fail, he should never have sought the job and nothing in his record suggests that he would have been so irresponsible as to do so. It is all too clear why he suddenly felt the weight of Time's hand on his shoulder.

Last June, Mr Blair said that it would be better "not to proceed" with EMU than to allow the qualifying criteria for EMU to be "fudged or botched". They have been, with Britain's assent. This put a premium on the credibility of the ECB; yet Mr Blair personally brokered the deal that damages that too. Mr Blair is committed "in principle" to EMU. After this application of the blind eye to the telescope, he should not expect voters to take on trust a future discovery that the conditions are right for Britain to join.

LEADERSHIP IN LONDON

The peace process needs separate issues to be unpacked

The linked meetings between Binyamin Netanyahu, Yasser Arafat and Madeleine Albright in London today are probably not a make-or-break moment for the Middle East peace process. The absence of an alternative will ensure that dialogue continues. It does, though, represent an opportunity. The process, under the supervision of American mediator Dennis Ross, has hit the buffers. A change of venue and direct proximity of the key actors provides the chance to escape from the thickets of disagreement over detail. This should be the primary aim of Ms Albright and Tony Blair.

At least four distinct, if related issues, have become intertwined. They are the "Stage Two" redeployment of Israeli forces from more of the West Bank; the drive to upgrade the economic infrastructure of the Palestinian National Authority through a new airport and an industrial park adjacent to the Gaza Strip; the shift towards "final status" deliberations on outstanding Israeli-Palestinian questions; and Mr Netanyahu's offer to withdraw his troops from southern Lebanon subject to satisfactory security arrangements. An advance on any of these fronts would assist the region.

For the last few months everything has revolved around the scale of Israel's next withdrawal from the West Bank. The US Administration has proposed a pull back of 13 per cent. Israel has suggested 9 per cent but hinted at additional flexibility. The final figure is not without importance. But it should be remembered that the disputed territory is virtually devoid of people. Well over 80 per cent of Palestinians already live in those areas under Mr Arafat's administration. Mr Netanyahu's numbers would

include almost all the remaining Palestinians. While this disagreement continues, the Palestinians will not sign contracts on their own airport and industrial park.

This stalemate has prevented all sides from moving towards final status talks. If the recent impasse has proved anything, it is that the current arrangements will not deliver a satisfactory settlement soon. They simply encourage shadow boxing around the most sensitive issues.

The pressing need now is to unblock the process. It would be in the interest of the Palestinians to take Mr Netanyahu's offer on West Bank withdrawal, and seek any improvement through full compliance with their own obligations. Israel should stop dragging its feet over the Oslo accords. But Mr Arafat has been delinquent too, notably in failing to amend the PLO charter's stated determination to wipe Israel off the map. His efforts against Hamas terrorists remain sporadic although there have been positive signs recently. He has built up a police force of at least 40,000 men despite an agreed ceiling of less than half that figure.

The Middle East peace process can be given new momentum. The redeployment of Israel's Army and the establishment of a Palestinian airport and the industrial park could move forward together. The two sides should then embark on the contentious final negotiations. The Americans can play some part in this but it is the protagonists themselves who are the crucial parties. If the London summit can move these matters towards that conclusion then it will have been a worthwhile endeavour. It will take real leadership to unpack what should never have become inextricably connected.

TAKING THE PUBLIC FOR A RIDE

The White Paper must stiffen control of rail fat-cats

Public disillusion with the antics of the fat-cat directors who have profited from rail privatisation has now been powerfully reinforced by some damning statistics. Figures to be released soon show that those companies whose directors made millions of pounds from selling their stakes had the worst punctuality and performance of all the 25 private train operators, and that overall trains in Britain are generally slower and less reliable than they were when run by British Rail. Indeed, some trains now take longer to reach their destination than when they were hauled by steam engines 100 years ago. There will be a powerful head of steam against John Prescott's likely call in his behind White Paper next month for new regulatory powers to stop private train operators taking the public for a ride.

Thames Trains and Great Western, whose directors earned more than £27 million from recent takeover deals, had the worst performance of all. The percentage of Thames trains arriving late almost doubled over the year, and the proportion of late Great Western trains was up by 59 per cent. This is a disgrace. The usual excuses — blaming a disrepair, the usual equipment or exceptional circumstances — are unacceptable.

By contrast, two of the best performers were ScotRail, with 94 per cent of its services to Aberdeen arriving on time, and Inverness to Aberdeen services arriving on time, and Silverlink, which serves north London. Here one might have made allowances: the weather in Scotland is always a potential hazard and servicing the

isolated rural stations on the network can be difficult. Silverlink runs trains on one of the most dilapidated stretches of the British network, and is making genuine efforts to run a proper suburban service despite grime, urban decay and vandalism.

The lesson is clear: Labour's worries about latterday railway barons were well-founded, and its determination to rein in the more egregious profiteers will be welcomed by a frustrated travelling public. The figures do not discredit the principle of privatisation, for they do not show the innovations — especially in new routes and flexible timings — introduced across Britain. But they do show that railways, unlike consumer goods, cannot be left to the regulation of the market, especially as each franchise is a virtual monopoly in its region.

Boosting the powers of the Regulator or setting up a strategic rail authority must be a main plank of the transport White Paper. Mr Prescott has already moved to focus the energies of rail directors on their passengers rather than their salaries by using take-over bids as a lever to insist on higher standards. He cannot be guided solely by arrival statistics. Virgin, for example, has taken on a sprawling, run-down network and has committed itself to billions of pounds in investment, though the results have yet to show up. What matters is the commitment to a properly run, properly accountable service. Only then will passengers enjoy the benefits of new liveries, new investment and new ideas.

Lessons from the case of Mary Bell

From Anne Wade

Sir, The most valuable gift that Gitta Sereny has made to Mary Bell (letters, April 29 and 30; May 1 and 2) is to relate to her in such a way that Mary could afford to think honestly about what she had done, and why, and make a little reparation by helping our understanding. Any payment is trivial in comparison, except symbolically.

What makes me angry and sad, now as it did in 1968, is that so much is understood about how to prevent and heal such disturbance, and yet we will not pay for it to happen. So much of the country's attention was riveted on Mary Bell then, so much money was available to find a solution to the problem she posed, and so little was, and is, available for those thousands of other children with less fascinating problems, or who have not killed anyone yet.

Of course this in-depth research is useful. We all have the potential to murder, given the necessary combination of circumstances. Real case studies can help us tease out why one person does, and another does not, commit such dreadful crimes.

After Jamie Bulger's death I was moved by hearing of the number of mothers who asked for help with their children because they understood with horror how the environment they were having to raise them in was putting them at risk of committing similar atrocities. An appropriate memorial for Martin, Brian and Jamie would be for us to do more to support the efforts of such mothers to prevent other tragedies.

Yours etc,
ANNE WADE,
19 Perkin Close, Wembley HA9 2LY,
April 30.

From Mrs Sharon De Blanc

Sir, I would like to applaud you for the courage it took to serialize a book that was bound to incur so much criticism. As someone who is currently studying law, and has worked for many years in the mental health field, I believe that it is vital for us to understand why children are killing other children. The problem has escalated recently in America, to previously unheard-of levels.

It is only by studying what went wrong with child killers, such as Mary Bell, that we will be able to make the kinds of corrections in our societies and services to prevent these horrors. It is unfortunate that Ms Sereny had to pay Ms Bell, as this will shift the focus away from the author's unblinkingly examination of the inner life of a child who committed the most serious crime possible.

However, it is certainly understandable that Ms Sereny would feel that Ms Bell deserved some recompense for going through the agonizing process of examining memories of past abuse as well as her own heinous acts. I have the utmost sympathy for the families of the two children so tragically and horribly murdered by Ms Bell, and regret that the greater good provided to society by the examination of these issues adds to their pain.

Yours etc,
SHARON DE BLANC,
3801 Galleria Court,
Plano, Texas 75075.
pdeblanc@ic.netcom.com
May 2.

From Mr A. G. Dempsey

Sir, I have cancelled my order for *The Times*. I am not paying you, to pay a writer, to pay a killer for a story.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. DEMPSEY,
580 Liverpool Road,
Ainsdale, Southport PR8 3BQ,
April 28.

From Mrs Jill Mitchell

Sir, Listening to last night's Reith Lecture and to the historical account of Japanese soldiers brutalised in their training in order to create merciless killing machines, I couldn't help but see the parallels to the Mary Bell debate.

Do we really expect an eleven-year-old girl, brutalised by her upbringing, to have risen above such vengeful feelings? Such children are not born, they are created by the abuse of adults whose company they did not choose and whose influence they could not escape. I am disgusted by her crimes in equal measure to the disgust I feel for those who now fail to see her as a victim.

Yours faithfully,
JILL MITCHELL,
The Cottage, Oatford St Mary,
Nr Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 0NB,
April 30.

From Mr Richard Voelcker

Sir, The Mary Bell case confirms that if children suffer undue cruelty, they can develop fear and hate, and may kill. If the publication of the book enables that to be understood it will have been worthwhile.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD VOELCKER,
Avils Farm,
Lower Stanton St Quintin,
Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 6DA,
May 3.

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e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Mothers in today's labour market

From Miss L. J. Wright

Sir, David Conway assumes much when he asserts that "for large numbers of women, perhaps most, being a full-time mother to pre-school children is the most worthwhile, fulfilling and dignified role they can ever assume", and one that is "incompatible with equal representation in the labour market" ("Just the job, or the worst of all worlds?", April 27).

He refers to surveys which reveal that "most women prefer to look after their pre-school children at home, rather than work full-time". Recent research has indicated quite the opposite: that many women with young children would love to work, but are prevented from doing so by a benefits system which works against them, or because of the lack of flexible work opportunities and childcare which would enable them to balance career and family responsibilities.

David Conway's remarks should be compared with findings from a survey by Lloyds TSB Bank, which indicate that nearly a million of the 3.5 million smaller firms in the UK are run

by women. A promising development, you might think. Yet the organisation *Women in Management* attributes this rise to the inability of male-dominated corporate bodies to adopt flexible working practices, which is leading frustrated women professionals to set up on their own.

The naive belief that the Equal Opportunities Commission has served its purpose and should be wound down is laughable. The sad truth is that women, whether they work in low-paid service-sector jobs or in high-flying business careers still face discrimination and lack of choice which, ultimately, they cannot fight if they wish to have children.

David Conway appears to regard the inescapable fact of female biology as a difficulty which cannot be resolved. He would do better to address the deficiencies of a male-oriented system which continues to exclude women by refusing to adapt.

Yours faithfully,
L. J. WRIGHT,
169 Victoria Road, NZ2 7XH,
April 28.

How does the Church manage?

From the Reverend B. H. Lucas

Sir, I am sorry that the Reverend Nicolas Stacey (letter, April 28) offered such an absurd solution to his analysis of the quality of leadership in the Church today.

God forbid that the Church should be governed by successful managers from the secular world. Most modern managerial boards would have refused to employ the Twelve Apostles as a company expansion team on account of their lack of "staff college" training in management.

There are priests in full-time ministry who have excellent management skills and are responsible for multi-million-pound budgets, but because they are in so-called "sector ministries", and are not in the parochial ministry, they are not known to the diocesan bishops, and therefore their names do not come up at appointment meetings.

The Church needs, and deserves, capable spiritual leaders. There is too much emphasis on management in the hierarchy, and not enough on leadership.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN LUCAS,
Pen-y-Coed, 6 Arnhem Drive,
Caythorpe, Lincolnshire NG32 3DQ,
April 28.

From the Vicar of Godmanchester

Sir, In drawing attention to the full-time stipendiary priests who "have virtually no management experience

the Reverend Nicolas Stacey once again reinforces the perception that men and women come to ordination straight from university and college, having followed no other career before answering their vocation.

Many of us followed careers in other walks of life (often at quite senior levels) before offering ourselves and our experience in the service of Our Lord. If the Church of England appears to have an under-developed appreciation that skills learned before ordination can be relevant to parish, abbey or diocese, then an approach to those within that number with those skills might be appropriate.

Westminster Abbey, being the Patron of this Living, does recognise such prior experience. There is indeed life before ordination.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL FOLLETT,
The Vicarage,
Post Street, Godmanchester,
Huntingdon PE18 8AQ,
April 28.

From Mr David Surtees

Sir, If the Church of England is to embrace more modern management and develop an image strategy will our clergy become "sin-doctors"?

I remain, yours faithfully,
DAVID SURTEES,
17 Westhaven Court,
Market Bosworth,
Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV13 0PR,
April 29.

Monuments at risk

From Mr Colin Schlappobersky

Sir, It is gratifying to read sympathetic comment on public monuments and sculpture (letters, April 27 and 28). Clearly these works of art, together with numerous war memorials, hold a distinct and affectionate place in the heart of a civilised country.

Adorning civic spaces, from the grandeur of city squares to humble village greens, monuments are generally cherished but rarely well maintained. Information about their welfare is variable, knowledge of their state of repair and treatment needs is scarce, and responsibilities are often confused or lost in the mists of time. Thoughtless neglect and well-meaning but ill-informed care are both seriously damaging to the future of our forefathers' legacy.

UKIC is combining with other concerned bodies, such as English Heritage and the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association, to discuss these issues at an international technical conference in London from May 20 to 22, entitled *Monuments and the Millennium*. We hope that a degree of consensus, co-ordination and action planning can be established at this conference which will set national standards of care.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN SCHLAPPOBERSKY
(Chairman, Stone Section),
UK Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (UKIC),
109 The Chandlery,
50 Westminster Bridge Road,
London SE1 7QY,
April 28.

Moving tale

From Mr M. J. Soley

Sir, In the interests of historical record, intrusive later-day editing of items featured in *On This Day* is a temptation that should be resisted.

With the National Theatre revival of *Oklahoma!* in prospect for this summer, the extract today from *The Times*'s 1947 review of the show's London premiere is fascinating and timely. But its archival value has been undermined.

My first night programme lists Harold Keel as Curly, not "Howard" Keel as shown in your reprint. Keel changed his name to Howard when he began his film career at Elstree the following year.

Yours etc,
JOHN THAXTER,
15a Stanley Road,
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 8TP,
May 1.

Museums to mark man's inhumanity

From Professor Joseph Rotblat, FRS

Sir, The plans for the millennium have all been laid, but we should still entertain ideas that seem to have been overlooked. In the celebration of the new millennium we quite rightly emphasise the great achievements of the past, the many material and cultural riches that we bequeath to future generations, but we should also remember the events that brought shame to us, or created dangers for the future.

I have in mind two outstanding events of the 20th century: the Holocaust and the atom bomb. My suggestion is that permanent museums be dedicated to these events, and plans started for them as part of the millennium projects.

We need a Holocaust museum to remind the future generations of the depth of degradation to which the human mind can sink, of the fact that a civilised country, renowned for its culture, overwhelmingly elected a government with a stated philosophy which condemned to death people for a reason no other than that they belonged to certain ethnic groups.

Apart from Yad Vashem, in Israel, which is not a museum, there is the Holocaust Museum in Washington but, to my knowledge, there is none of appropriate magnitude in Britain, or indeed in Europe, the continent in which these atrocities took place.

We need an atom bomb museum to remind us of the danger to all of us that may result from an exalted human activity, scientific research. The atom bomb initiated the nuclear age, with its main characteristic that for the first time in history we have acquired the technical means to destroy the whole of humankind in a single act.

There is a comprehensive atom bomb museum in Hiroshima, deeply moving to every visitor. Again, there is no fitting museum of this fearful event in Britain, the country where the research work on the atom bomb was initiated and its scientific feasibility first established.

George Santayana said: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Yours faithfully,
J. ROTBLAT,
8 Asmara Road, NW2 3ST,
May 3.

All mod cons

From Mr Dennis Berry

Sir, I read with some surprise the article about how "cutting-edge technology" is being applied to housing ("At last a house that runs itself", Homes, April 29).

In 1886, I designed a London house with almost all the innovations mentioned in the article — curtains, lighting, air-conditioning, radio, TV, all remotely controlled, as well as triple glazing, etc — for the late George and Lady Cecilia Howard, of Castle Howard.

The arrival of "cutting-edge technology" seems to have taken its time.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS BERRY
(Architect),
11 Rairacres, Acacia Grove,
New Malden, Surrey KT3 8S,
April 29.

Highway tootery

From Mr W. Dixon Smith

Sir, When motor cars were a rarity on our roads and brakes unreliable, the horn was a regrettable necessity. It belongs essentially to the age of the running-board and the starting-handle.

Today, the horn is chiefly employed to express disapproval of other drivers and to intimidate pedestrians. Its secondary use is to broadcast greetings to selected passers-by and to startle the guilt-stricken driver in front who has dawdled for more than 0.5 of a second after the lights have changed to green.

I have also known it serve as a remotely functioning doorbell for the young and the young in head. It is dangerously distracting and adds considerably to the stress of modern driving. Perhaps an outright ban on its manufacture would be impracticable, but should not its use be made punishable by law?

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM DIXON SMITH,
6 Welland Rise,
Acomb, York YO2 5HH,
May 2.

By any other name...

From Mr Ian G. Cross

Sir, I was interested to see that, helping to bring up the rear in the list of finishers in the London Marathon (May 1), K. Sore was in 27,936th position, with M. Sore one place behind. Further down, in 28,600th place, was K. Stiff, closely followed by T. Stiff. If I run next year, but do not finish, my name will also say it all.

Yours faithfully,
I. CROSS,
11 Beechwood Lodge,
Portlinton Road,
Bournemouth, Dorset BH4 8BY,
May 2.

OBITUARIES

MAUREEN MARCHIONESS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA

Maureen Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, one of the three famous Guinness sisters and a noted society figure, died in London yesterday aged 91. She was born on January 31, 1907.

Maureen Dufferin much enriched London society for many decades with her eccentricity and good humour. Born a Guinness, she married a Blackwood and in recent years an elegant figure, invariably dressed from head to foot in black, often wearing a black hat with a veil and a handbag adorned with an owl at her side, and peering quizzically through her heavily squinted pale blue horn-rimmed spectacles. She was the delight of society photographers and, more importantly, the inspiration for Osbert Lancaster's cartoon heroine, Maudie Littlehampton, not only in looks but also in whimsicality.

While she lived at the centre of society from the 1920s onwards and entertained Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to an annual dinner for many years, there were certain sections of that world that she probably for her unaccountability.

Maureen was the second of the three Guinness girls, of whom the oldest, Aileen, Mrs Brinsley Plunket, survives at the age of 93 (the youngest sister, Oonagh, Lady Orammore and Browne, died in August 1995). They were the daughters of the delightfully eccentric Ernest Guinness and granddaughters of the 1st Earl of Lytton.

As such, they were invariably described as heiresses to the brewing fortune and renowned as Bright Young Things. In that mercurial era of the 1920s they were to the fore, drinking whisky while other debutantes sipped champagne, and shocking many with their far from demure behaviour.

The three sisters were each different. Aileen, yearning towards the grand life, living in style at Luttrellstown in Ireland, with cupboards full of shoes, and thinking nothing of crossing the channel to have her hair done by Monsieur Alexandre in Paris, while Oonagh was relatively timid, preferring the unpredictability

of Ireland's haute bohemian and literary life. Maureen was in turn both funny and naughty. Possessed of a wicked sense of humour, she could be variously generous and kind-natured, yet surprisingly suspicious, especially of servants with whom she often entered into pointless litigation.

The film director, John Huston, summed up all three: "The sisters are all witches, lovely ones to be sure, but witches nonetheless. They are all transparent-skinned, with pale hair and light blue eyes. You can very nearly see through them. They are quite capable of changing swinish folk into real swine before your very eyes, and turning them back again without their even knowing it. Or of putting the wrong words into the mouths of pretentious persons, so that everyone, including the victims, is appalled at the nonsense they talk."

Maureen's father, Ernest Guinness, ran the family brewery. His eccentricity showed itself when he took his daughters sailing round the world but remained determined that they would never eat on shore. All the food came from Southampton, leaving Maureen with a lifelong distaste for cold chicken and ham.

Her father loved to fly and was the oldest man of his day to take a pilot's licence. This activity inspired little confidence in Maureen, as he liked to go round in circles and flew with shaky hands. When he died in 1949, Ernest Guinness left more than £3 million, including 13 houses in Ireland, one of which he bought merely for its airstrip.

Their parents worried about Sinn Féin and sent them to school in England. Maureen then went to a finishing school in France before the traditional London season. She initially hated, often hiding in lavatories. But her circle included such figures as Harold Acton and Evelyn Waugh, whom she found stimulating. Happiness came in her romance with Basil, Earl of Ava, a legendary Oxford figure, described by James Lees-Milne as "the best brain of my generation".

Maureen married Basil Ava (who later became the 4th Marquess of Dufferin and Ava) in 1930. He rose to be Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Colonies and a Government Whip in the



Lords but was killed in action in Burma in 1945.

When they married, Maureen went to live at Clondeboyne, the lovely estate of 3,000 acres in Co Down. The house had been adorned with many romantic embellishments by the 1st Marquess. A grizzly bear stood in the hall, along with an Egyptian mummy and a Red Indian fertility idol. Burmese and Indian trophies, daggers, lances and cutlasses. There, in grand style, Maureen entertained friends such as Frank and Elizabeth Pakenham (the Longfords), and Teresa Jungman.

There she raised her young family, her daughter Caroline Blackwood later giving a memorable fictional account of Clondeboyne in her novel, *Great-Granny Webster*. At Clondeboyne, too, she gave vent to practical jokes, once disguising herself as a slovenly maid, handing snuff to guests, the wrong drinks and announcing that "Her Ladyship has been delayed upstairs".

Clondeboyne had become dilapidated after the First World War and suffered further in the second. But Maureen poured Guinness money into the property, effectively rescuing it and when she handed it

over to her son Sheridan and his wife Linda in 1968, four years after their marriage, it was in good condition, if in places profiting too much from the lightweight adornments of the designer, Felix Harbord.

Maureen's second husband was a man some years her junior, Major Desmond ("Kelly") Buchanan. They were married in 1948 and the marriage ended in 1954. She married as her third husband in 1955 Judge John Maude, whose place in legal legend is assured by his imprecation to a hopeless drunken tramp, shaking with DTs, who appeared in court before him, that he must at all costs eschew alcohol entirely forthwith: "Mind now, not even a tiny glass of sherry before luncheon!" He spent his final years in a nursing home at Amesbury and died there in 1986. Maureen retained her title of Marchioness through the course of these later marriages.

She lived in a large house in Hans Crescent, once the home of Lord Mountbatten's father, Prince Louis of Battenberg, and also maintained a substantial property in Kent, called the Owl House, where she converted a field into a large garden of roses, rhododendrons, magnolia and daffodils. In both homes she was an enthusiastic bridge player. In the Kent village of Lambhurst she also founded a holiday home for arthritics (Maureen's Oasthouse for Arthritis) to which invalids could come while their carers had time off.

In the summer she went to Sardinia, where she had a magnificent villa on the Costa Smeralda, jokingly referred to as "Villa Costalotta". Like all rich people, she frequently pleaded poverty, and certainly some of the properties and contents were held in trust. After making generous provision for her children, she was left with a considerably reduced income.

Every spring she gave a dinner party in London for the Queen Mother, summing 20 guests and inviting more to come in after dinner. She sat at one end of the table with the Queen Mother at the other in a large dining room that came to life just for this occasion once a year. She chose an eclectic selection of guests to amuse the Queen Mother over the years: Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Sir Frederick Ashton,

Dorothy Dickson, Evelyn Laye, and latterly Edward Fox and Barry Humphries. On one occasion the lights failed after dinner, and Sir Alec Guinness, sitting opposite the Queen Mother, said: "Ma'am, Tap once if you are all right and twice if you aren't." In the darkness he heard not one tap or two but three.

Maureen's later years were overshadowed by many personal sorrows. Her son Sheridan died of cancer in 1966, and one granddaughter died of drugs. In 1980 she dismissed a butler over an issue concerning crab apples. He took her to the industrial tribunal. Her old friend, Lord Longford, offered to speak on her behalf, but she assured him: "No thank you. I am in quite enough trouble already."

In the 1990s, she spent many years fighting a lawsuit brought by her daughters and daughter-in-law to challenge her wish to transfer the benefits of a trust to her two surviving granddaughters. Although eventually she won this action, it proved draining. In exasperation she once declared: "About the only problem the Guinnesses don't have is money."

Maureen celebrated milestone birthdays with lavish parties. Princess Alexandra attended her seventieth birthday at the Savoy, her eightieth at the Mirabelle, and in January 1997 she celebrated her ninetieth birthday with a magnificent dinner and ball at Claridge's, to which the guests were bidden to come in white tie and tulle. The Queen Mother came down early from Sandringham to attend and, of the five nonagenarians present, proved to be the only one to take to the dance floor, no mean feat at 96. Maureen made a predictably funny speech, and stayed until the dancing stopped at 3am.

Thereafter her health declined but this did not prevent her making a final visit to Clondeboyne in 1997, not wholly unlike the return of the fictional Lord Marchmain to Brideshead, nor delivering some outspoken words in a documentary about the Guinness family screened on television in the autumn of 1997.

She is survived by her daughter, Perdita.

KEVIN LLOYD

Kevin Lloyd, actor, died after collapsing in a pub on May 2 aged 49. He was born on March 28, 1949.

UNTIL he was sacked from the show at the beginning of last week, Kevin Lloyd played Detective Constable Alfred "Tosh" Lines in the popular ITV police series *The Bill*. Overweight and scruffy, with an undisciplined moustache, Tosh was a policeman content to plod. But he was affable, honest and dependable in a crisis. Lloyd turned him into a stalwart of Sun Hill police station, and made him one of the best-liked characters in the show. Two years ago, when *The Bill* was named Best TV Drama at the National Television Awards, it seemed entirely fitting that it was Lloyd who collected the honour on behalf of the rest of the cast.

Kevin Reardon Lloyd was born in Derby, the son of a police sergeant who was killed in an accident at the age of 40 when responding to an emergency call. Lloyd was to draw on aspects of his father's personality and manner in creating the character of Tosh; his grandfather and an uncle were policemen, too.

As a child Lloyd suffered from Perthes' disease, a painful and debilitating condition which left him with a withered right leg but did little to curb an early enthusiasm for sport of all kinds. Educated locally, he trained to be a solicitor after leaving grammar school, but abandoned his legal studies in favour of the stage.

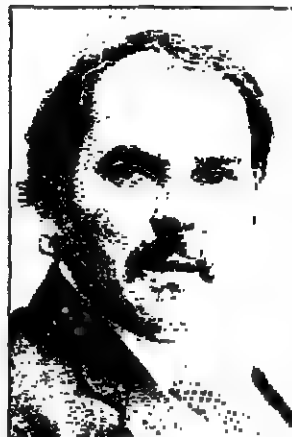
He attended the East 15 drama school in London from 1970 to 1973, making his stage debut on graduation in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. His West End debut shortly afterwards was in Joe Orton's *What the Butler Saw*. This was followed by work with the Royal Shakespeare Company and Bristol Old Vic. One of the biggest disappointments of Lloyd's career was the death of Laurence Olivier two weeks before they were due to start rehearsing together for a production of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* in Los Angeles.

His initial television appearance was in a children's show, *Bob and Ben the Removal Men*, but he first achieved celebrity with a regular role as Don Watkins, flash, loud-mouthed manager of Mike Baldwin's doomed nightclub in *Coronation Street*. Other

television credits included *Z Cars*, *The Sweeney*, *Minder* and *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*.

With its cast of regulars pounding the inner-city beat, and its format of two then three 30-minute episodes each week, *The Bill* aimed to combine the investigative excitement of earlier police dramas with the running human interest of a soap opera. It quickly became a hit with viewers. Lloyd joined it in 1988 as the lovably chaotic Constable Lines, and stayed long enough to see it attract audiences of up to 14 million.

Even at the height of his success, Lloyd was deter-



mined to remain close to his Derbyshire roots. Not only was he a lifelong Derby County supporter, but for years he commuted daily from his home at Duffield, north of Derby, to London's Notting Hill where *The Bill* was filmed — a round trip of six hours and some 270 miles, accomplished at an annual cost of £17,000.

The gruelling regimen took its toll on his marriage and on his health. He and his wife separated with great acrimony amid much publicity in 1995, and were subsequently divorced. Another relationship was short-lived, and earlier this year Lloyd sought treatment for drink problems in a private Staffordshire clinic.

The attempted cure was unsuccessful. After several ultimatums, and nine years as Tosh, Lloyd was sacked with immediate effect by the producers of *The Bill* last Monday, having reportedly turned up drunk for his first full day back on the set.

He leaves four sons and three daughters, one of them an adopted Romanian orphan. Another daughter died in infancy.

JUSTIN FASHANU

Justin Fashanu, footballer, was found hanged in a garage in East London on May 2 aged 37. He was born on February 19, 1961.

JUSTIN FASHANU'S fall was as spectacular as his rise. A Barnardo's boy who was signed by First Division Norwich City at the age of 17, he showed every sign of fulfilling his early promise. In three years at Norwich he produced moments of real brilliance. There was a hat-trick in 20 minutes at Stoke and, above all, there was an extraordinary long-range curling shot that took Liverpool's defence by surprise and was thought by many who saw it to be one of the truly outstanding goals. When he moved to Nottingham Forest in 1981, it was as the first black British player to change hands for a £1 million transfer fee.

But then things began to go wrong. Fashanu soon fell out with Forest's manager, Brian Clough, and after 32 appearances — and just three goals — he left Nottingham for Southampton in 1982. It was the beginning of an erratic downward progress that would take him — sometimes for only a game or two — to more than a dozen clubs in Britain and America by the time he died.

Injury played a cruel part in Fashanu's decline. But the player himself blamed many of his setbacks on the bigotry he encountered. There was an element of truth in this. He was a black player in a game where racism is still widespread (and he played at a time when there were fewer black footballers than there are today). He was a born-again Christian. And — most challenging of all to the prejudices of terrace and dressing room — he became in 1990 the first star of British football to make a public profession of his homosexuality.

But for some of his misfortunes, Fashanu may only himself to blame. Accustomed to wealth and celebrity from his earliest playing days, he seemed unwilling and unable to stay out of the public eye for long. But once his playing career faltered, it was his behaviour off the field that made the headlines.

There were unpaid debts. There were fines for speeding and rows over taxi fares.



There were public assertions that one in four footballers was gay and that the game was facing a heterosexual AIDS epidemic. There were soft-porn photo-sessions. There was a mysterious and much-publicised liaison with an actress from *Coronation Street*. And, most grotesque of all, there was the "revelation" of a homosexual encounter with not one but two Conservative Cabinet ministers, and began to frequent the clubs in Nottingham. Such behaviour off the field, when combined with a fierce temper that had already seen him suspended for headbutting a Bristol City player, soon brought him into conflict with Forest's mercurial manager Brian Clough, who on one occasion had Fashanu escorted from the team's training ground by the police.

Fashanu left for Southampton. Nine games later he was briefly back at Forest, before signing in 1983 with their local rivals, Notts County — for £150,000. There, a successful two-year spell under the guidance of the club's then

manager Howard Wilkinson restored a measure of stability to his career, and in 64 games he scored 20 goals. Just when he seemed set for renewed success, a serious injury blighted his career. Blood poisoning set in after mud became embedded in a knee wound. Fashanu's game never really recovered. He played a few times for Brighton in 1985 before moving to North America, where he spent several years coaching and managing in Canada and California. He also, he said, spent some £200,000 on medical treatment.

He came back to England in 1989 to find his younger brother enjoying the football success that had once looked set to be his. He attempted to resume his career, making two trial appearances for Manchester City, two for West Ham, and five for Leyton Orient, before returning once more to Canada. In 1991 he was back in Britain again, for another unsuccessful trial, this time with Newcastle.

He finally found himself signed by Third Division Torquay, where he scored ten goals in 21 appearances and became assistant manager. By then, however, he had "come out" in an interview with *The Sun*, and any attention he received owed more to his being Britain's only openly gay footballer than to anything he might achieve on the field.

Football fans and fellow players, whatever their reputation for bigotry, seemed to treat him on the whole with tolerance and good humour — at least in his face. He was in any case not a man to be intimidated by abuse, and after leaving Torquay he moved for a time into the even rougher world of Scottish football, playing 16 games for Airdrieonians and 11 for Heart of Midlothian in 1992 and 1993. His bizarre attempt to peddle unfounded sexual allegations about government ministers to the press (coupled with a spurious offer to assist the police investigation into the curious death of the MP Stephen Milligan), brought an end to his British career. He was sacked by Hearts for conduct unbecoming a professional footballer, and moved to America to work as a coach.

He is survived by his brother.

There she raised her young family, her daughter Caroline Blackwood later giving a memorable fictional account of Clondeboyne in her novel, *Great-Granny Webster*. At Clondeboyne, too, she gave vent to practical jokes, once disguising herself as a slovenly maid, handing snuff to guests, the wrong drinks and announcing that "Her Ladyship has been delayed upstairs".

Eldridge Cleaver, former spokesman of the US Black Panther movement and author of *Soul on Ice* died on May 1 aged 62. He was born in Arkansas, in 1935.

THERE can have been few more unlikely literary lions than Eldridge Cleaver. Born poor, uneducated — and in constant trouble with the law from an early age — he nonetheless produced one of the most compelling accounts of the black experience in America ever to be written.

Soul on Ice, published in 1968, was written in prison. This was hardly surprising: it was where Leroy Eldridge Cleaver had spent almost the whole of his adult life. Convicted of bicycle theft at the age of 15, Cleaver was sent to reform school in Whittier, California, where the older boys inspired him with more sophisticated criminal aspirations. He had hardly been released in 1953 than he was back in the reformatory again, this time for selling marijuana.

A few days after his second release he was once more arrested for possession of the drug, and began a two and a half year sentence in the California State Prison at Soledad.

There Cleaver began to educate himself. He devoured the works of Thomas Paine, Voltaire, Karl Marx and W. E. B. Du Bois, and began to develop a personal philosophy of what it meant to be black in a white America. The prison experience, however, did little to improve his moral character. After his release from Soledad he returned to selling marijuana, and became a weekend rapist. At first his victims were black women; later, white — often the female motel room companions of men to whom they were not married.

"Rape was an insurrectionary act," he recalled candidly in *Soul on Ice*. "It delighted me that I was defying and trampling upon the white man's law, upon his system of values, and that I was defiling his women. This point, I believe, was most satisfying to me because I was very resentful over the historical fact of how the white man has used the black woman. I felt I was getting revenge."

After 12 months Cleaver was caught and convicted of

ELDRIDGE CLEAVER



assault with intent to murder. This time the sentence was two to 14 years, first in San Quentin and then in Folsom Prison, California. "After I returned to prison," he wrote, "I took a long look at myself and for the first time in my life admitted that I was wrong, that I had gone astray — astray not so much from the white man's law as from being human, civilised. My pride as a man dissolved and my whole fragile structure seemed to collapse, completely shattered. That is why I started to write. To save myself."

In Folsom, Cleaver became a Black Muslim and follower of Malcolm X, and began to write. In 1965, after eight years in prison, he wrote to Beverly Axelrod, a white San Francisco lawyer known for her work in civil liberties cases, asking her to plead his case for

parole. That letter began a romantic association between them based on a lyrical correspondence (they were later to settle down to a relationship founded on affection and mutual respect). Axelrod eventually succeeded in getting Cleaver out of prison and his work to a San Francisco publisher.

Released on parole in December 1966, Cleaver met not only Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, founders of the Black Panthers, but also Kathleen Neal, the daughter of an American Foreign Service officer, who had joined the Black Panthers after initially working with the Student National Co-ordinating Committee (SNCC). They married at the end of 1967.

At this stage the Panthers, whose numbers were to grow to several thousands, were a black self-defence movement

based in the slums of Oakland, trying to stem the police harassment of blacks in the ghetto. Their tactics were essentially non-violent, but they aroused seething hostility among the police which eventually led to shoot-outs. In an incident, following Panther attempts to quell rioting after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Cleaver was wounded, his purple was rescinded and he was sent back to jail.

Freed on a writ of habeas corpus, Cleaver ran for President in 1968 (getting 30,000 votes) and began to lecture on racism at the University of California at Berkeley — to the intense annoyance of the then Governor Ronald Reagan, whose attempts to stop him led to student demonstrations.

In November 1968, a higher court ruled that Cleaver must return to jail. Instead, he went underground and escaped via Canada to Cuba, later leaving there for a glossy white villa overlooking Algiers, where he became something of an expatriate American celebrity. Eventually, though, he fell out with the Algerian authorities, and with his wife and two children, moved to Paris — dividing his next three years between living there and in an apartment he had bought on the Côte d'Azur. It was at the latter that he claimed to have undergone a religious experience, a spiritual conversion that prompted his voluntary return to the United States in 1975.

Most of the more serious charges against him were dropped and, although he spent eight months in jail, he ended up with no greater punishment than five years' probation and 5,000 hours' community service. Subsequently, Cleaver ran unsuccessfully in a Republican primary for the United States Senate, tried his hand at fashion designing and ran a recycling operation in California. His marriage ended in divorce in 1987.

His last book was dedicated to "Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Who can do for everyone what He did for me". Cleaver also only last month, rather more ominously, declared: "I've gone beyond civil rights and human rights to creation rights."

He is survived by his ex-wife and his son and daughter.

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MAY 4 1998

LISTINGS

We have a search
played by Carling
to become a
Review: Every
to a gay too the
Page

OPINION

robbery
force created in the
land has debate
trades... Page
hip in London
the a powerful head
and John Prescott's Bill
White Paper next week
power to stop the
operators taking the
Page

COLUMNS

RIDDELL
believe that the we
into show that does
not leadership in Eng
video by Britain Paul
M REES-MOGG
fully compromise over
of the European Com
national a diagram
Page

EY LEE

an... involved in
the... from the
the... that this is
the... of a child's
Page

CHURCHES

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the... from the
Page

LETTERS

the... of the
the... of the
the... of the
the... of the
Page

THE PAPER

the... of the
the... of the
the... of the
the... of the
Page

12

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Page

12

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Page

12

the... of the
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the... of the
the... of the
Page

12

Gazza and Middlesbrough
go up
PAGE 26

THE DESPAIR
Manchester
City win
but go
down
anyway
PAGES
26&31

THE HOPE
Sunderland
head for the
play-offs
PAGE 26

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MAY 4 1998

CHAMPIONS - 1931, '33, '34, '35, '38, '48, '53, '71, '89, '91, 1998



Wright holds the FA Carling Premiership trophy aloft at the end of an outstanding Arsenal display in which Overmars, right, scored two of the four goals. Adams scored the last and had a hand in the first

Double beckons for Arsenal after ruthless performance

BY OLIVER HOIT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN four goals had bulged the back of the Everton net and the tension, finally, had been dispelled in a glorious catharsis of celebration, a man in a grey suit walked down the wide steps of the Highbury tunnel and emerged on to the pitch carrying the FA Carling Premiership trophy. A few minutes later, accompanied by a deafening cacophony of howling and cheering, England's new league champions followed him out.

Arsenal have been involved in uproarious endings to championship struggles before, of course, most notably in 1989, but yesterday they had finished off this one, their eleventh title, quite beautifully. The nerves were gone and the football that has taken them to an astonishing ten successive wins took over again and rocketed them out of the forlorn reach of Manchester United.

It was the finale of one of the most stunning comebacks in the history of the domestic championship. Once 13 points behind United, they have now lost a league match now since December 13 and when United faltered, they pounced. The way they played yesterday, scything through an Everton team that now looks likely to be relegated, one wonders if the winning will ever stop.

They had even managed to save the best for last when Steve Bould, brought on ten minutes from the end as a sentimental sop to one of the lions of the last Arsenal championship win seven years ago, chipped a pass over a static Arsenal defence to Tony Adams. The captain, the man whose regeneration as a man and a player, has coincided with Arsenal's, took the ball on a few steps then fashed it joyously past Thomas Myhre for his side's fourth goal.

And afterwards, when they emerged blinking into the late afternoon sunlight dancing and prancing and donning a variety of red and white wigs and jesters' hats, it was Adams who led them out. He walked slowly along the black carpet that had been laid out for the team, climbed on to the dais in front of the North Bank, gave the trophy a quick peck and hoisted it aloft.

One by one, they took their turn, each cheered to the echo by supporters celebrating their little success in nine years. Ian Wright, a championship winner for the first time at 34, sprayed champagne wildly into the crowd, happy to have been allowed his own cameo performance. And then, last of all, Arsène

Wenger, the first foreign coach to win the English championship, took his turn and the crowd pumped the volume up even higher.

When he had battled his way back to the sanctuary of the tunnel, Wenger, who also won the French title with AS Monaco, stood by the door that led to Highbury's famous marble halls and held court. He said that team spirit had been his player of the season and that it had been embodied by that fourth goal and the late contribution of Bould. And as he celebrated the French evolution he has wrought upon this club, he gloried in the honour of his triumph.

"I have tried to keep my emotions all through our campaign," Wenger said, "because I knew that many

people thought a foreign manager could not win the championship. I knew, too, that if we did not win it having come so far, it would be a disaster for us. I tried to keep everybody professional and calm.

"Of course, I am very proud to be the first foreign manager to do it. I know how difficult it is to win the title in England. For me, it is one way to pay back the confidence that the directors showed in me when they appointed me."

"I accepted that I was an unknown and that I had to do well to show that I was able to succeed. I felt at one moment that the championship was over even if I could not say it. When we were 13 points behind and we knew how strong Manchester United

were, it was difficult to imagine that there could be any way back from that.

"But when we beat them at Old Trafford, the players started to believe that we could do it again. I did not expect us to win it this season because we made so many changes at the start of the year. But we just got stronger as the season continued. I just want to relax tonight with a good dinner and a good French wine."

Wenger will be allowed time to relax, too. He has transformed Arsenal with great wisdom, resisting any temptation to dismantle a defence that works in perfect harmony and choosing instead to graft on to the back four players with pace, strength and guile.

Middlesbrough go up 26
Vintage champions 27
Saviour Klinsmann 28
Lyane Truss 31

Yesterday, it was Marc Overmars, one of his most crucial buys, who ripped Everton apart with his speed. He was just too quick for the ageing Everton rearguard. Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira, the two Frenchmen he bought to anchor the centre of midfield, were superb, too. On the sidelines, the injured Dennis Bergkamp watched in his tracksuit before joining in the celebrations.

Not even a nasty injury to Petit caused by a two-footed tackle from Don Hutchison could spoil Arsenal's day. It was thought at first that Petit had broken his leg but afterwards, as the Frenchman swigged champagne in the tunnel, Wenger said he would almost certainly be fit for the Cup Final on Saturday week. "That is our next great challenge," Wenger said. The Double beckons.



Wenger's joy is unconfined as the final whistle goes and he becomes the first foreign manager to win the title

5 facts about state

1. THE STATE IS A SOVEREIGN ENTITY
2. THE STATE IS A LEGAL ENTITY
3. THE STATE IS A POLITICAL ENTITY
4. THE STATE IS A ECONOMIC ENTITY
5. THE STATE IS A SOCIAL ENTITY

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Nationwide League: Middlesbrough's victory consigns North East rivals to lottery of play-offs

Armstrong's twin strike launches promotion party

Middlesbrough 4
Oxford United 1

By DAVID POWELL

MIDDLESBROUGH occupied the driving seat going into the last round of Nationwide League first division matches yesterday but, by half-time, Sunderland were threatening to pinch their FA Carling Premiership parking space. Then two goals by Alan Armstrong, in the first three minutes of the second half, followed by two from Craig Hignett settled the argument.

The last half-hour was played out to the rhythm of a promotion party as the fourth goal went in and the sun came out. Until then it had been a grey afternoon, dark skies and gloom on the faces of home supporters as news spread that Sunderland were 2-0 up away to Swindon Town.

Middlesbrough kicked off needing the three points to be sure of taking the second promotion place behind Nottingham Forest. Anything less and Sunderland or Charlton Athletic could pip them. The half-time atmosphere at the Riverside Stadium was like a morgue and word of the score at Swindon had reached the Middlesbrough dressing-room.

How redolent it was of last season when Middlesbrough cried more tears than any club two cup final defeats and relegation. Suddenly, though, anxiety turned to joy, thanks to two players who were not with Middlesbrough during those harrowing months of April and May last season — Paul Merson, who supplied the passes, and Armstrong, who took his chances superbly.

Having signed from Stockport County for £1.5 million in

February, Armstrong had been in and out of the side. Bryan Robson, the manager, selected him to play from the start for only the seventh time, dropping Beck and Ricard and giving Merson the other attacking role.

Picking Armstrong had been "a calculated gamble", Robson said. His promotion-winning goals were all the more remarkable for them coming in painful circumstances.

FINAL TABLE

| Nottingham Forest | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Middlesbrough | 46 | 26 | 10 | 8 | 82 | 42 | 94 |
| Sunderland | 46 | 20 | 12 | 14 | 66 | 50 | 80 |
| Charlton | 46 | 18 | 10 | 18 | 60 | 58 | 68 |
| Sheff Wed | 46 | 17 | 14 | 15 | 58 | 54 | 64 |
| Sheff Utd | 46 | 19 | 17 | 10 | 56 | 35 | 74 |
| Birmingham | 46 | 19 | 10 | 17 | 53 | 59 | 69 |
| Stockport | 46 | 18 | 9 | 19 | 51 | 69 | 66 |
| Wolves | 46 | 18 | 11 | 17 | 57 | 53 | 69 |
| Wigan | 46 | 18 | 10 | 18 | 51 | 57 | 66 |
| Crewe | 46 | 18 | 5 | 23 | 55 | 66 | 59 |
| Oxford Utd | 46 | 16 | 10 | 20 | 60 | 64 | 58 |
| Sheff Wed | 46 | 14 | 15 | 17 | 48 | 59 | 57 |
| Tranmere | 46 | 14 | 14 | 18 | 54 | 67 | 56 |
| Northwich | 46 | 14 | 13 | 19 | 50 | 69 | 55 |
| Hull City | 46 | 14 | 11 | 21 | 50 | 72 | 53 |
| Bury | 46 | 11 | 19 | 16 | 42 | 58 | 52 |
| Salford | 46 | 14 | 10 | 22 | 45 | 73 | 52 |
| Port Vale | 46 | 13 | 10 | 23 | 51 | 65 | 49 |
| Portsmouth | 46 | 13 | 10 | 23 | 31 | 63 | 49 |
| QPR | 46 | 10 | 19 | 17 | 51 | 63 | 49 |
| Man City | 46 | 12 | 12 | 22 | 55 | 57 | 48 |
| Stoke | 46 | 11 | 13 | 22 | 44 | 74 | 46 |
| Reading | 46 | 11 | 9 | 26 | 58 | 78 | 42 |

PLAY-OFFS: Semi-finals: First leg (May 10): Sheffield United v Sunderland; Ipswich v Charlton. Second leg (May 15): Sunderland v Sheffield United; Charlton v Ipswich. Final (May 22): at Wembley.

stances, Armstrong could barely walk at the beginning of the week because of a back problem for which he is booked into hospital to have surgery on Thursday.

However, after coming through a five-side game, and having a painkilling injection yesterday morning, he was sufficiently geared up to play. "The back was really sore at half-time and I said I would give it another ten minutes," Armstrong said. "That seemed to be the ten

minutes that worked." Had Middlesbrough failed to secure automatic promotion, Armstrong would have been available for the play-offs. As events transpired, he came off after 65 minutes a hero.

Oxford had defended stubbornly throughout the first half, but they threw away the chains after the interval. Within 45 seconds, Merson lobbed the visitors' defence and Armstrong, running forward unchallenged, controlled the ball on his right knee, let it bounce twice, then fired across Whitehead, the Oxford goalkeeper, to find his target.

Before the applause had died down, the combination was back for another goal. Merson slipped his pass along the ground this time, from the right side of goal into the centre, where Armstrong ran the ball in from close range. By now Oxford seemed to have lost all co-ordination in defence and Hignett was left unmarked for his two goals.

The first came after Fleming played a penetrating pass that Hignett ran on to in the penalty area, thumping a shot past Whitehead. His second was set up by delightful approach work from Merson and Gascoigne and was completed with another unstoppable drive.

Oxford, having settled for a rearguard action throughout, now thought about hitting back. Murphy fired narrowly over, Marsh forced Schwarzer into a difficult save, then the Middlesbrough goalkeeper was beaten when Beauchamp found Banger unmarked. Middlesbrough it was, though, who continued to play the more inspired football and Hignett was denied a hat-trick when Whitehead blocked his shot at his near post.

When the final whistle blew,



Gascoigne shows his delight as he celebrates Middlesbrough's triumph with Merson

it signalled not only Middlesbrough's promotion but the last time that Nigel Pearson would be seen on the field of play. Robson's first signing when he took over as manager four years ago, Pearson has been forced to retire because of a troublesome knee.

"It is a great loss to the club," Robson said of a player who has captained Middlesbrough to three cup finals and two promotions. "I am delighted he has gone out on a high. I have got to see now whether there are any opportunities for him at the club."

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-2): M Schwarzer — C Fleming, N Pearson, G Field, G Hignett — C Gascoigne, P Merson, A Armstrong (sub: R Pearce, 60min).

OXFORD UNITED (4-5-1): P Whitehead — L Robinson, S Davis, P Gilchrist, S Marsh — J Beauchamp, M Gray, D Smith, M Murphy (sub: N Banger, 28), P Powell (sub: G Remy, 64) — R Francis (sub: J Cook, 84).

Referee: P Richards

Humour eases pain in a tale of two sad Cities

Stoke City 2
Manchester City 5

By DAVID MADDOCK

THE story of Manchester City is a tragedy. Even on an afternoon when they were relegated from the Nationwide League first division along with Stoke City, there was laughter amid the tears from their supporters yesterday. "Are you watching Macclesfield?" they sang, as results elsewhere contrived to send them down, despite one last act of defiance.

How, you may wonder, can they be so frivolous at the darkest hour in their 111-year existence? The answer is simple. They are resigned to their miserable fate. Every City fan knows that if something bad can happen, it will. Only they could reserve their best performance of the season for the final day, score five goals and be relegated because the two sides above them secure improbable away wins.

Stoke's fans displayed gallows humour, too, as their fate was sealed, which briefly took the heat out of a tense atmosphere that had boiled over into sporadic fighting within five minutes of the kick-off. Taunted by chants, midway through the match, of "going down", the home supporters responded with "so are you".

While Stoke's fall has been half-expected all season, the Maine Road club's has been a cataclysmic shock. Next season they will be playing at the lowest level in their history, with derbies against Macclesfield Town and Wigan Athletic. Their fans sang: "We're gonna win the league," but you never know with Manchester City. The victory yesterday was only their second against a team in the bottom seven.

Three points were virtually assured from the 31st minute, when Horlock's long ball

released Goater, who capitalised on confusion in the Stoke defence to lob the ball gently over Southall.

A goal from Dickov, who rammed the ball into the net after Southall's save from a Goater header, continued the inevitable on 50 minutes. Stoke rallied briefly, when Thorne nicked a goal from a corner after 62 minutes, but a minute later Bradbury's header from Edgell's cross confirmed the win.

Goater's second from Symons' through-ball and a tap-in by Horlock merely exposed the incompetence in this Stoke side, whose only relief came from another Thorne goal, this time with his head from Kavanagh's cross. But, by then, other scorelines had turned the visitors' thoughts to next season.

"We will need to reflect and

Watford's title 29
Lynce Truss 31

take a long, hard look at ourselves," Joe Royle, the Manchester City manager, said. "There will be new players coming in and others leaving. The players know they have to let people down, but we have not gone down because of one month, or one year: it is a succession of things over a period of time."

Depressingly, the frustration of both sets of supporters, generated some ugly scenes. Fighting broke out during the match across the stadium and afterwards there were battles on wasteland outside, with people injured after bricks were thrown by rival fans. It was a sad end to a sad day.

STOKE CITY (4-4-2): N Southall — A Fleming, L Skidmore, S Field, R Hewitt — C Gascoigne, S Davis, P Gilchrist, S Marsh — J Beauchamp, M Gray, D Smith, M Murphy (sub: N Banger, 28), P Powell (sub: G Remy, 64) — R Francis (sub: J Cook, 84).

Referee: M Bailey

Sunderland's belief unshaken

Swindon Town 1
Sunderland 2

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

SUNDERLAND supporters made the long trek from Wearside in droves, easily outnumbering the home fans: clowns, jugglers and men on stilts created a colourful, carnival atmosphere; and Kevin Phillips scored his 32nd and 33rd goals of the season with characteristic aplomb. It should have been a celebration of all things Sunderland at the County Ground yesterday.

Instead, despite a comfortable win against Swindon Town, a record of only three defeats in their past 36 league matches and a total of 90 points this season, Sunderland now have to endure the play-offs. They meet Sheffield United in the semi-finals and, if there is any justice, they will ease through later this month and take their place in the FA

Carling Premiership next season.

The belief remains. As the fans, many of them clad in bizarre wigs and Arab attire, waited in the sunshine for Peter Reid, the manager, to appear after the game, they chanted "we're going up" to the tune of *Three Lions*.

Reid eventually arrived in the directors' box and, microphone in hand, spoke to his adoring audience. "I'd just like to say, on behalf of myself and the players, a big thank you to the best supporters in the world," he said. "We're obviously all disappointed at not going up automatically but we will be trying tooth and nail to get the club and supporters into the Premier League."

For much of the first half, and a brief spell in the second, Sunderland had one foot in the Premiership. They held a comfortable 2-0 lead against Swindon while Middlesbrough were being held 0-0 at home by Oxford United. Had the script stayed unaltered,

Middlesbrough would have been forced into the play-offs.

However, once Middlesbrough had gone ahead at the Riverside Stadium and the news had filtered through via radio to the Sunderland masses in Wiltshire, the inevitable was gradually accepted. The edge went out of Sunderland's game and Walters was allowed to curl in a beautifully



Phillips: two goals

crafted, if irrelevant, left-foot shot near the end.

The afternoon had started so brightly for Sunderland. Phillips continued his prolific campaign when he chested down Holloway's cross in the 21st minute and then volleyed sweetly past Digby. A minute before the interval, he converted Craddock's nod-down with similar skill.

Swindon had led the division in November but subsequently slipped into oblivion, winning only four times in 29 league matches. A small band of fans, carrying their "Macca Out" banner, made a token protest at the end, calling for the head of Steve McMahon, the Swindon manager, but it was drowned out by the Sunderland fervour.

SWINDON TOWN (3-5-2): P Digby — S Bannister, D Vordell, A McDonald — M Robinson, P Cuevas (sub: C Hoy, 72min), D Bullock (sub: K Watson, 87), M Walters, S Davis — I Ochoa, S Cane.

Referee: M Pearce

Ball reveals in rescue act

Bradford City 1
Portsmouth 3

By MATT DICKINSON

MANCHESTER City supporters used to warn their children that if they misbehave, Alan Ball would come back as manager. A demon figure around Maine Road before the traumatic events of yesterday, Ball will have been turned into the devil himself after victory for his Portsmouth side condemned City to the drop.

With Stoke City, another club where mention of his name is enough to bring the blood to the boil, also plunging into the obscurity of the Nationwide League second division, Ball might have allowed himself a gloat or two. Instead, he sensibly chose to revel in his own unlikely success and the remarkable turnaround that has seen Portsmouth rise to safety from seven points adrift

at the bottom of the first division when he took the helm in January.

"I am drained but absolutely thrilled," he said. "I came with 19 matches left and a mountain to climb. People thought I must have been daft taking on the job but everyone has worked tirelessly and they've all got their reward today. I don't get any satisfaction from the other clubs going down. I just wanted to help Portsmouth because my heart is in this club."

If the Manchester City lynch mob were looking for a scapegoat yesterday, they would have been spoilt for choice. Apart from Ball, there was also Gary Walsh, the former Manchester United goalkeeper, whose dreadful blunder handed Portsmouth the opening goal that calmed their frayed nerves.

With Manchester City leading at Stoke, Portsmouth were in the bottom three in the 36th minute as Steve Marnes rolled a back-pass to Walsh. It

should have been cleared but the Bradford goalkeeper sliced his kick, allowing Sammy Igoe to square the ball to John Durkin, who side-footed into an empty goal.

With the diminutive Igoe pulling the strings in midfield, Portsmouth never looked like surrendering the lead and they went further ahead in the 65th minute when Igoe himself shot into the roof of the net.

Durkin added his second after 74 minutes, heading in from, almost inevitably, an Igoe cross, and while there was still time for Bradford to have substitute Robbie Blake sent off for swinging an arm at Pethick and for Craig Ramage to head an 87th-minute goal, the Portsmouth fans were beyond caring.

BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G Walsh — S Marnes (sub: R Blake, 57min), D Moore, L Sennitt (sub: M Bowyer, 72), W Jacobs (sub: R Stevens, 58) — E Dwyer, C Ramage.

PORTSMOUTH (3-5-2): A Farnham — A Thomson, A Axford, D Walmsley — R Pethick, M Walters, D Walker, S Igoe, M Robinson — M Stevenson, J Durkin.

Referee: G Carr

Aldridge bows out in typical fashion

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

JOHN ALDRIDGE concluded his career in appropriate fashion by scoring both goals in Tranmere Rovers' 2-1 victory against Wolverhampton Wanderers in the Nationwide League first division yesterday. In an otherwise meaningless fixture, devoid of relegation or promotion issues, Aldridge, 39, struck in the 34th minute, with a penalty, and in the 75th minute to finish on 474 goals.

"I couldn't have scripted it any better," Aldridge, the Tranmere player-manager, said. "It was the perfect end to a perfect playing career and it was ironic that I should score my last goal with my left foot." Down the years with Newport County, Oxford United, Liverpool, Real Sociedad, Tranmere and Ireland, Aldridge was not noted for putting his left foot forward.

Ipswich Town continued their winning ways with a 3-2 success against Crewe Alexandra at Portman Road, with David Johnson, Mick Stockwell and Alex Mathie scoring the goals. Kieran Dyer missed a penalty, but Ipswich remain in good heart for their two-leg play-off semi-final against Charlton Athletic.

Nottingham Forest, the champions, were held to a 1-1 draw by West Bromwich Albion at The Hawthorns, but were unable to collect their championship trophy because of safety regulations. It was perhaps just as well, with Steve Stone's early penalty — his second goal of the season — sparking crowd disturbances that caused the game to be held up for five minutes.

Lee Hughes equalised for West Bromwich in the 88th minute and Forest now have to wait until the club dinner tomorrow for an official reception in Nottingham on Thursday to receive their honours.

No such distinction for Bury, who beat Queens Park Rangers with an effort from Gordon Armstrong, but at least they avoided the drop after a season of hard graft.

Reading finished bottom of the division and bade farewell to Elm Park, after 102 years, when they lost 1-0 to Norwich City. Second division fare awaited the completion of the Madejski Stadium, Reading's new £37 million, 25,000-capacity, all-seat home.

Ilic excels as Birmingham barrage proves fruitless

Birmingham City 0
Charlton Athletic 0

By RICHARD HOBSON

IT WILL take a strong, persistent side to prevent Charlton Athletic from reaching the FA Carling Premiership. They demonstrated all their defensive power at St Andrew's yesterday to keep a seventh successive clean sheet and prevent Birmingham City from joining them in the Nationwide League promotion play-offs.

With Middlesbrough and Sunderland both holding comfortable leads shortly after half-time, it became clear that Charlton were highly unlikely to go up automatically. Not that they created many chances to secure the required ninth victory on the trot in any case. Instead, they proliferated like busy insects in their own third of the field and repelled everything the home side could launch towards them.

Rufus was outstanding in defence while Ilic provided a formidable barrier in goal. Charlton were 40-1 for promotion last August but now face Ipswich Town in the play-off semi-final. "We could not go into the game in better heart,"

Alan Curbishley, the manager, said.

Both sides showed anxiety in the opening half-hour and snatched at the rare opportunities. Then, after 36 minutes, Bright found space behind Bruce and Johnson, only to misdirect a free header from Newton's cross, and, within 60 seconds, Ilic produced his first fine save to deny Ndlovu at the near post.

Mistakes from the Australia-born goalkeeper, qualified to play for Yugoslavia, were few, yet he almost allowed Birmingham to go ahead two minutes before half-time when he missed a cross from

Marsden. Furlong should have converted.

The offending striker went closer in the 55th minute. Ndlovu, a persistent threat with his pace and trickery, committed Mills into the tackle before crossing from the left. This time, Ilic could do nothing as the ball rebounded off a post.

He recovered to deny Ndlovu eight minutes later and then shot a point-blank shot by Hughes, a substitute, with 11 minutes remaining. Even then the ball dropped kindly for Ndlovu, but his lob missed narrowly.

Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, said: "We had 18 chances on goal against their five but we missed opportunities and came across a goalkeeper in exceptional form. It is not the first time it has happened to us here this season, but I am very, very pleased to be in the position where we were involved on the last day of the season."

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): K Poole — J Cal (sub: D Pugh, 67min), S Bruce, M Johnson, S Charlton — J McCarty (sub: B Hughes, 75), M O'Connor, C Marsden, P Ndlovu — P Furlong (sub: M Forster, 81) — A Adams.

Referee: R Harris

Radios provide late relief for Sheffield

Stockport County 1
Sheffield United 0

By KEVIN EASON

FOR nearly five agonising minutes, the ranks of red-and-white supporters stood stock still, gazing into the distance as though the pitch and stands around them were little more than virtual reality. All belief had to be suspended until their radios crackled the result from Birmingham City that meant their team, Sheffield United, had won a place in the promotion play-offs. Just.

Out of form and running short of personnel as they embarked on their fourth Nationwide League game in eight days, there was little chance that they would be able to upset a sturdy Stockport County side determined to finish their first season in the first division in a blaze of glory. "We had five players out there no more than 60 per cent fit," Steve Thompson, their caretaker-manager, said. "The players are mentally and physically exhausted and I am not in much better shape."

So there was little surprise, then, that Stockport attacked from the start, while United could never find any cohesion, struggling to break into the last third of the field. When the second half began, Stockport raised the tempo further and, although an appeal for a penalty fell on deaf ears after a push on Byrne, the midfield player, a goal was inevitable. It came on the hour when Cooper sent a looping, left-foot shot over the penalty area and into the bottom corner of the Sheffield net.

Fortunately for United, for while they were unable to recover on this occasion, indeed have failed to win away from home since November, Birmingham failed to beat Charlton Athletic and it is Thompson and his men who go on to a play-off semi-final against Sunderland. They will be glad that the first leg is at Bramall Lane, but the fact that the final is at Wembley, the ultimate away fixture, does not bode well.

STOCKPORT COUNTY (4-4-2): E Mason — S Corneil, D South, M Flynn, M McInnes — C Bruce, W Pugh, R Williams, K Cooper (sub: C Woodhouse, 82min) — B Angell, A Whitworth (sub: S Grant, 88).

Referee: C Walker

Cheers not tears as Vale survive

Huddersfield Town 0
Port Vale 4

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

BEFORE kick-off, it was all quite straightforward for Port Vale: win and they stayed in the Nationwide League first division. Draw or lose and the calculators came out, which was much too complicated, better just win, eh?

And they made it look that simple, taking the lead early on and stifling any threats of a Huddersfield comeback with further strikes at important moments. The fall of Stoke City, their local rivals, further contributed to a perfect day for their supporters. "Magnificent, a tremendous end to the season for us," John Rudge, the Port Vale manager, said.

As it turned out, the comments of Peter Jackson, the Huddersfield manager, in the programme were prophetic. No doubt John Rudge's team will make it very difficult for us," he wrote. They did, scoring in only the second minute. Jansson's corner was cleared, Bogle returned it to him and his cross was headed back by Barnett for Martin Foyle to slip the ball into the corner of the net. Three sides of the

ground, including the end where the goal had gone in, were silent; there was pandemonium in the fourth.

Huddersfield dozed in the sunshine until the 23rd minute, when Richardson's run and shot demanded an elastic save from Musselwhite. Vale, roused, went straight upfield and doubled their lead. Foyle heading on Ainsworth's cross for Jansson to volley in at the far post.

The home side came out in more determined mood after the break, but to no avail. After Facey's header was disallowed for offside on the hour, Vale made it 3-0. Ignoring a knot of players at the far post, Jansson bent his free kick wickedly under Harper's crossbar and in.

This time, Vale were able to celebrate in front of their delirious followers, for whom it could hardly get any better — although it did. Lee Mills heading in from close range after a corner with ten minutes left.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (4-3-3): S Harper — I Hony, J Dyer (sub: G Edmondson, 71min), S Collie, D Phillips — S Horro, L Richardson, G Johnson (sub: A Johnson, 60) — M Stevens, L Watson, P Barnes (sub: D Facey, 46).

Referee: F Sisson



Francis positive

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FA Carling Premiership: Comprehensive defeat leaves Everton standing on brink of relegation

Arsenal time
title run-in
to perfection

THE sun shone literally and metaphorically on Arsenal at Highbury, as, thrashing Everton 4-0, they won the championship for the eleventh time, the first since 1991 and the sixth since the Second World War. Their victory took them to 78 points, thus breaking the stranglehold on the title of Manchester United, who cannot now catch them.

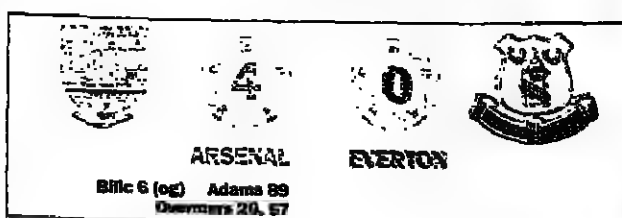
It was a disastrous result for Everton, leaving them with 39 points from their 37 games and in substantial danger of slipping down to the Nationwide League first division.

For Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, this was a remarkable success in what was only his first full season. It was achieved, moreover, when the championship seemed so surely in the pockets of Manchester United that Manchester bookmakers were refusing to accept any more bets on their local team.

If there is to be an analogy with any other sport, perhaps it should be with racing and that legendary jockey, Harry Wragg, celebrated as "The Head Waiter", for his ability to win races, coming from behind. Arsenal won their last ten league matches in a row and waxed while United waned.

This victory over Everton was not without its bleak side. Petit, injured just before half-time in a two-footed, jumping tackle by Hutchinson, which did not even elicit a yellow card, looked as if he might have broken a leg, a fear that later proved unjustified. With a gesture of disgust, Petit threw his shinpad on to the field as he went off, to be replaced by David Platt. Fortunately for Arsenal, waiting in the wings, is one of the most promising players they have produced in recent years. In the adventurous Stephen Hughes.

It gave Arsenal's fans particular pleasure that their fourth goal, in the twentieth minute, should be run in by Adams, the veteran captain, galloping



BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

after a through-pass from Bould, his fellow defender. Everton took the field in a state of extreme denial. They had no fewer than four centre backs deployed, though quite what was the point of using Bilic, the Croatia international, in front of the back four, a largely immobile figure, was difficult to understand.

Equally difficult to comprehend was the slowness with which Howard Kendall, who has seen much better days at Everton both as manager and player, reacted to the situation. Surely, with points so vital to his team's survival, he must have known that after the first goal went in, with only a couple of minutes played, he had to drag his team out of its defensive crouch, and go at least for the equaliser. He did not, indeed, Arsenal were able to make it 2-0, and largely put the game beyond Everton's grasp, by the time it came to the interval.

Only then did Kendall muster his courage, putting on no fewer than three substitutes and, in fact, enabling his team to contrive a number of promising attacks against an Arsenal team missing the forceful sort of Petit, while his French partner, Vieira was quite plainly tiring.

The opening goal, which made Arsenal's eventual victory almost inevitable, arrived four minutes after Arsenal had given Everton substantial early warning. Winterburn, overlapping dynamically in the early period, took a pass from the ebullient Overmars, and sent a long penetrating cross to Wreh, who hit it

beautifully, first time, but Myhre turned the ball resourcefully, behind.

Execution was merely delayed. Petit, rampant, swung in a left-footed free kick from the right. Adams went up for it on the far post, but the ball went into the net off the head of the unfortunate Bilic.

Despite their reinforced defence, Everton were never able to cope with Overmars. In these early minutes, their goal tottered time and again. Anelka, who has found all the confidence he previously lacked, played a one-two with Winterburn and was only just wide of the right-hand post. When Winterburn, still exuberant, found Wreh, Parlor met the cross with a header, but Myhre turned it behind.

The goalkeeper had to come quickly out of his box just beating Anelka to a long ball from Petit: long passes put Everton's massed defence into a surprising amount of trouble. Then Petit put in another of his long balls and Myhre had to dive at the feet of the oncoming Dixon.

Sooner or later Arsenal had to score again but when they did it was, somewhat surprisingly, thanks to Myhre's mistake. As Petit lay prone on the ground clutching his face, Overmars ran on and his eventual shot flew under the body of the Everton goalkeeper.

Ferguson, frustrated perhaps by being left so lonely at the front, initiated a brawl with Keown which could well have brought him a red card rather than a yellow — the indulgence of Gerald Ashby, the referee, again proving somewhat baffling.

Overmars scored again after 57 minutes, exploiting a somewhat lucky rebound to race on and beat Myhre with another left-footer. Myhre to some extent recovered his early mistake when he dived to save a right-foot shot by Anelka. But there was nothing he could do with Adams's ultimate foray.

Seaman in Arsenal's goal did not have to make a single save.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D. Seaman — D. Dixon, A. Adams, M. Keown, N. Winterburn — R. Parlor, P. Wreh, P. Petit, G. Smith, M. Overmars — G. Wreh (sub: S. Bould, 83), N. Anelka (sub: I. Wright, 72). EVERTON (4-5-1): T. Myhre — J. O'Keefe (sub: G. Family, 46), D. Dixon, G. Short, C. Tiller — P. Beagrie (sub: J. O'Keefe, 46), S. Bould (sub: M. Macey, 46), M. Burt, D. Hutchinson, N. Barry — D. Ferguson. Referee: G. Ashby.



Overmars, at full stretch, scores his second goal and Arsenal's third in the victory that secured the championship for the London side

Champions show champagne style

Modern vintage combines former qualities with the finest in imported, continental flair

It was easy to mock Arsenal once, even when they were triumphant. Polite society shunned them the last time that they won the league seven years ago under George Graham. The virtues that they showed then were deemed prosaic and boring. They had no elegance, no class. Then they found their own Professor Henry Higgins in Arsène Wenger and from a flower-seller into a duchess they were transformed.

This time, it is impossible to damn them with faint praise, not because they have surprised everybody by beating the favourites, Manchester United, to the finishing line but because of the way they have done it. It has been achieved with style and panache. They have become a team that neutrals can cheer, that football aesthetes have learnt to love.

The grit and the fight is still there, they can still mix it with the best of them — they have not lost that in their French evolution — but somehow it is just part of what Arsenal are today, whereas before it was almost everything. Even Tony Adams, Steve Bould and the rest of that grizzled defence seem to have been rehabilitated, showered with sentimental affection like four versions of Jack Nicklaus creaking towards another Masters.

Adams, reformed and revitalised, is a fitting symbol for the cleansing, rejuvenating effect that Wenger seems to have had on the whole club. The Frenchman's strictures on diet and post-training routines that emphasise the importance of warming-down and his merriment blending of the old and the new have breathed new life into his players.

Popular with the press because of his unswerving courtesy and his articulacy, he has exhibited a remarkable talent for diffusing tensions when they occurred and for maintaining his sang-froid in good times and bad. He has earned the respect of all his

players and emphasised the importance of the team.

If the defence, including the redoubtable David Seaman, was the rock on which this success was built, though much of the inspiration for the triumph that was sealed with the home win over Everton yesterday came from the central midfield partnership of Patrick Vieira and Emmanuel Petit, the Frenchmen who have bound the team together.

There was a period in the winter when Arsenal's season reached its nadir with limp defeats against Derby County, Sheffield Wednesday and Blackburn Rovers and Wenger and his side trailed United by 13 points, that Vieira and Petit were pilloried for their ill-discipline. It was said that alone would cost Arsenal any chance of mounting a challenge to the leaders. Yet Wenger, a loyal man, kept faith with them and they repaid him. It is their form, their relentless tackling, Vieira's rangy running and Petit's considered passes, that have been at the heart of the club's record run of ten successive FA Carling Premiership victories. They are the perfect mix, right and left-footers.

Aiding them on either flank were Ray Parlour, a player reborn after stepping back from the brink of self-

destruction, and Marc Overmars, the winger, whose pace was so important in stretching defences and opening up the spaces for Dennis Bergkamp, Ian Wright and Nicolas Anelka.

Despite all this, despite the evidence of the sublime goals and elaborate artistry of Bergkamp and the breaking of the club goalscoring record by

Wright, the curmudgeons may still say that the title was lost by United, not won by Arsenal. Some will claim that United neglected their domestic responsibilities as they indulged, in vain, their obsession with winning the European Cup.

At the start of the season, United did seem to be the class of the field. They walked through the league programme until Christmas, steamrollering all who had the temerity to get in their way. Ryan Giggs was better than ever, Andy Cole was lethal, Gary Neville and Denis Irwin were as dependable as ever. But the loss of Roy Keane in the autumn hit them harder than anyone realised. Scholes and Butt filled in admirably for a while, but when the attritional nature of the Premiership season began to take its toll in the spring, United, starved by the misers on the board, delved into the cupboard and found that it was bare.

When Arsenal had to do the same, they discovered that the shelves were groaning with riches. Without Bergkamp, who was suspended, and Wright, injured, it seemed that any attempt to challenge United, even though they were showing signs of faltering, would surely be doomed to failure. Then their young reserves came of age when Arsenal needed them most.

Suddenly, Nicolas Anelka, the striker, began to dazzle with his pace and close control. Alongside him, Christopher Wreh scored a crucial goal that gave Arsenal three points at Bolton Wanderers on the last day of March. In goal, Alex Manninger, the ruddy-cheeked Austrian, made such a capable deputy for Seaman that many thought he should keep his place even when the England goalkeeper returned to fitness.

It was all made possible by the victory they had achieved at Old Trafford on March 14, a win that made it clear to everybody that Arsenal now posed a real threat in a race that had been written off as a foregone conclusion. Marc Overmars executed the clinical finish that won the game. The bookmakers started taking bets on the outcome of the championship again. Still it seemed that United might hold Arsenal off, if only because they had the points while their rivals had games in hand, but Arsenal hunted them down. Against Newcastle United, Blackburn, Wimbledon, Barnsley, Derby and now Everton, they just kept on winning. "Any team that puts that kind of run together at this stage of the season deserves to win the title," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said last week.

And as Arsenal rattled in the goals, sweeping all before them, their supporters bathed in the joy of the team's new incarnation. "Boring, boring Arsenal," they sang, because they knew they were not.

OLIVER HOLT



win were as dependable as ever. But the loss of Roy Keane in the autumn hit them harder than anyone realised. Scholes and Butt filled in admirably for a while, but when the attritional nature of the Premiership season began to take its toll in the spring, United, starved by the misers on the board, delved into the cupboard and found that it was bare.

| ARSENAL'S CHAMPIONSHIPS | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|--------|-----|--------|--------|--------------|-----------|------|
| | P | W | D | L | Points | Pts | Champs | Second | Place | Win | Loss |
| 1890/91 | 42 | 28 | 10 | 4 | 127 | 60 | 86 | 4 | A Villa | 7pts | |
| 1922/23 | 42 | 25 | 8 | 9 | 118 | 61 | 98 | 9 | A Villa | 4pts | |
| 1923/24 | 42 | 26 | 9 | 7 | 126 | 47 | 39 | 13 | Huddersfield | 3pts | |
| 1924/25 | 42 | 23 | 12 | 7 | 115 | 46 | 88 | 16 | Sunderland | 4pts | |
| 1937/38 | 42 | 22 | 10 | 11 | 77 | 44 | 82 | 12 | Wolves | 1pt | |
| 1947/48 | 42 | 23 | 13 | 6 | 81 | 32 | 89 | 21 | Man Utd | 7pts | |
| 1962/63 | 42 | 21 | 12 | 9 | 87 | 64 | 84 | 5 | Preston NE | goal ave | |
| 1970/71 | 42 | 28 | 7 | 6 | 71 | 28 | 86 | 25 | Lancs | 1pt | |
| 1988/89 | 38 | 22 | 10 | 6 | 78 | 38 | 78 | 14 | Liverpool | goal diff | |
| 1990/91* | 38 | 24 | 13 | 1 | 74 | 37 | 88 | 24 | Liverpool | goal diff | |
| 1997/98** | 38 | 25 | 9 | 4 | 88 | 28 | 78 | 15 | Man Utd | ? | |

* 2 points deducted ** Played so far

Dunfermline prolong race for Bell's Scottish League title and ease the pain of defeat for Rangers

Celtic miss chance to end ten years of waiting

Dunfermline Athletic 1 Celtic

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

CELTIC supporters gathered at East End Park yesterday in expectation of a sunlit exorcism, but not all the demons that have gathered over the ten years without a Bell's Scottish League premier division title could quite be driven out. To take the championship, Celtic required a victory, but a Faulconbridge equaliser for Dunfermline Athletic in the 82nd minute denied them.

Wim Jansen's side are now two points clear at the top of the table, after Rangers' 1-0 defeat by Kilmarnock on Saturday — accordingly, a win at home over St Johnstone will make Celtic champions — yet their inability to decide the matter yesterday prolongs the stress and surely corrodes their confidence.

On a bare, uneven pitch that interfered mischievously with many a move, Celtic could not sustain the domination that had been slowly built up in the first half. As before, the lack of a finisher in the penalty area allowed discomfort to creep into their performance. The stages of the process will have been all too familiar to long-suffering fans.

In methodical fashion, Celtic brought their influence to bear slowly and took the lead after 35 minutes. Phil O'Donnell's tackle secured possession and a refined movement ensued as Larsson drifted across the defence before tucking an angled pass through to Donnelly, who drove a shot into the far

corner of the net. Celebrations broke out in many areas of the ground, but the revellers seemed oblivious to the task that still lay before Celtic. The assumption that the team could consolidate with another goal was ill-founded. Westwater made a series of sound saves, but the devastating move that Celtic required could never quite be produced.

Although Larsson clipped the outside of the post, the key moment may have come in the 73rd minute, when the same tireless forward twisted into the penalty area before going down as Ireland challenged from behind. The television evidence suggested that Larsson had been pulled down, but the referee saw no offence.

Such incidents were gathering in significance, for Celtic had begun to accept that they might have to steel themselves and simply endure the concluding phase of the contest. Dunfermline, already safe for another season in the premier division, had no obvious incentives, but they are a club with a keen sense of their own dignity.

Their goal came from the centre circle, from a free kick by McCulloch that was thumped forward for Faulconbridge to rise and loop a header over Gould, the Celtic goalkeeper, into the far corner of the net. In the last few moments, the visitors came forward with an urgency that had been painfully renewed by that equaliser. Wiegorst, the substitute, had a drive blocked and also saw a header cleared from the goalmouth by McCulloch.

Yet by then, there was an inevitability about the frustration. Celtic

have now drawn their past two matches, scoring just one goal in the process. With Rangers facing an away match at Dundee United on Saturday, their circumstances are still enviable, but the lack of ruthlessness that converts promise to achievement continues to be a source of dismay for Celtic.

Their great rivals, however, are also experiencing distress. When, last month, Rangers defeated Celtic in the Tennents Scottish Cup and then in the league, it was impossible not to conclude that there was a resurgence at Ibrox. Nobody appreciated that the effort applied in those engagements had consumed the last ounce of vitality in a team too dependent on veterans.

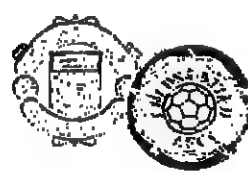
Briefly, Rangers shared the lead in the premier division, but their real condition was soon revealed in a defeat at Aberdeen. On Saturday, Walter Smith, the manager who is soon to be succeeded by Dick Advocaat, and many of his players were making their final appearance at Ibrox. Despite being impelled by so much sentiment, Rangers made little impression on the visitors.

Kilmarnock's win was delivered by a goal from Mitchell, the substitute, in the third minute of stoppage time. Ibrox was then the site of abject misery for the Rangers players and their followers, but yesterday afternoon the sense of doom receded a little.

DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC (3-5-2): Westwater — A Todd, J. Squire, C. Haining — G. Shields, N. French (sub: S. Payne, 70min), M. Miller (sub: D. Bingham, 70), R. Huxford, S. McCulloch — A. Smith, G. Brown (sub: C. Faulconbridge, 77). CELTIC (3-5-2): J. Gould — E. Annoni, A. Stubbs, M. Roper — J. McLennan (sub: H. Brattbak, 85), P. Limerick, C. Barry, P. O'Donnell (sub: M. Wiegorst, 85), T. Boyd — S. Donnelly, N. Larsson. Referee: J. Underhill.



The Celtic bench can barely believe their eyes as Dunfermline equalise, denying them the title

MANCHESTER UNITED
LEEDS UNITED
Today, 5.0David Maddock
It will be a strange experience for the new, middle-class members of Manchester United's audience today — watching a game with nothing at stake.

Alex Ferguson has said he will be pruning dead wood at Old Trafford and bringing in some young saplings. That process could begin today.

There could be an FA Carling Premiership debut for Alex Notman, a prolific goalscorer, which would increase suspicions that Teddy Sheringham is to be sold.

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable 4-4-2): P. Schmeichel — M. Clegg, G. Palazzi, H. Berg, P. Neville — D. Beckham, P. Scholes, N. Butt, P. Malyne — A. Cole, A. Morrison.
LEEDS UNITED (probable 5-3-2): N. Marny — G. Kelly, L. Rodon, H. Hirst, D. Whitham, I. Harte — G. Hule, A. Hazard, L. Bowyer — J. F. Hasselbaink, H. Kewell. Referee: G. Widdard.

TELEVISION: Today: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 4.30pm.
PREDICTION: Going out with a whimper, a draw.

FA Carling Premiership: Defeat ends romantic adventure for football's favourite underdogs

Barnsley finally bow to the inevitable

LEICESTER CITY 1
BARNLEY 0
By Mark Hodgkinson

THE large man in a thick overcoat was flanked by two stewards. At the final whistle, he walked slowly and reluctantly around the edge of the pitch, invisible bricks around his seats, an invisible brick in his heart.

When the television people set about him with their blazing lights at Filbert Street on Saturday, he managed to rouse a semblance of fighting talk. Since his is an unfamiliar face, the strapline was provided: "John Dennis, Barnsley Chairman." "It's been a wonderful experience, just to be part of the Premiership..." he began. He has learnt to put on a good show, to focus on the positive and talk it up for a microphone.

"Is this off the record?" he will ask later in a quiet corner of a quiet room. The trusted few will then hear the real truth — for there are several versions — about the relegation of Barnsley back to football's hinterland. He will talk, in refreshingly plain terms, of the disappointment, the frustration, the anger: this is a football club chairman of the old school. A fanatic who just happens to have a larger bank balance than your average supporter.

His father, Ernest Dennis, was chairman before him and John Dennis has been connected with the club for more than forty years. When Barnsley lost, staff at Oakwell kept out of his way and a sulk can last from Saturday until Wednesday. It will take him most of the summer to remove the brick from his heart.

As he made his way across the chandlers, the Barnsley supporters housed on the other side of the pitch sang victoriously in defeat, that they were saying just, not going home — but home is a different place now that their team has given them pride and fame. Most will remain with Dennis long after Danny Wilson, their manager, and the players have moved on. They were, in effect, celebrating each other, a town united by football. Where Barnsley was once perceived as grumpy and unfriendly, the football team has added a sheen of colour.

Portentously, a sun that had sent dazzling patterns over the nearby River Soar became pale and indifferent at the kick-off. It was an overcast game of tired legs and lazy minds between teams all played out. August to May has been a long journey for players who, in the main,



Tinkler, of Barnsley, fails to halt the progress of Guppy, the Leicester winger, at Filbert Street on Saturday. Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

are forced to rely on exuberance more than enterprise. They played similar tactical formations and, like two people continually bumping into each other in a narrow corridor, there was nowhere to move, no way out.

Much has been made of Barnsley's improvement in the second half of the season, but their form in recent weeks has been poor and, in truth, they have not looked like an FA Carling Premiership side. Their passing has disintegrated and their celebrated heart and endeavour have been hard to discern in the final run-in of eight games, which has included six defeats. Against Leicester City, Neil

Redfern, their captain and best player in adversity, was often caught in possession and his lack of pace and incisiveness epitomised the whole team.

Leicester stirred themselves enough to create a goal 12 minutes into the second half. Guppy's cross was turned into the path of Zagorakis, who poked it home without conviction. The goal secured a win that will be vital if Leicester are to qualify once more for Europe.

Bosancic, who had replaced the ineffective Tinkler for Barnsley, provided an unnecessary zap of excitement when he twice fouled Zagorakis and was sent off five minutes before full time.

Afterwards, Wilson implored that no one ask him the obvious. "Don't anyone dare ask me how I feel," he said. He was asked, instead, how his players felt. Since we had seen some of them break down in tears on the pitch, we already knew the answer. "Their confidence is very low at the moment. They are absolutely gutted to have their Premiership place taken away from them. They are very disappointed. Some of them are weeping back there."

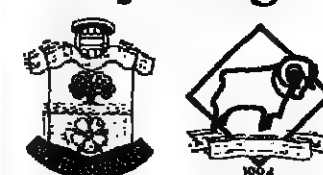
While he spoke, laughter and chatter rang out from an adjoining hospitality room. Glasses were being chinked, greetings exchanged. The constant hum of merriment was irritating and disrespect-

ful. In one room, a wake of sorts, in another, a party of sorts. "People will have sympathy with us for about two minutes, but that will be it," Wilson said.

The Premiership party will continue without Barnsley, though their neat, flamboyant football, the romance that they provided and their damn good heart will surely linger for longer than Wilson predicts.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K. Ketter — I. Marshall, M. Elliot, S. Walsh, R. Savage, T. Zagorakis, N. Larnon, M. Izuel, S. Guppy — E. Heskey, A. Collins (sub: G. Farfoll, 80min). BARNLEY (3-4-1-2): D. Watson — A. Ade Zewail, A. Moses, S. Jones (sub: M. Bullock, 58), N. Eaden, E. Tinkler (sub: J. Bosancic, 58), N. Redfern, D. Bernard — C. Henshew — J. A. Fyfe (sub: A. Liddle, 62), A. Ward. Referee: D. Galloway.

Jones finds his luck is out yet again

SOUTHAMPTON 0
DERBY COUNTY 2
By Brian Glanville

FOOTBALL can be capricious. Football can be cruel. Paul Jones, the Southampton goalkeeper, would hardly disagree. Before this mediocre game began on Saturday, he was invested with the Southampton player-of-the-year award, narrowly beating Carlton Palmer.

He had plainly been forgiven for the appalling howler that he had committed in Southampton's previous game at The Dell, when he ran out of the box, kicked at the ball and missed it completely, enabling Carl Leaburn, of Wimbledon, to put it into the empty net.

On this occasion, Jones succeeded in giving away both goals. Derby County gaining a somewhat unexpected victory. The second of these goals, close to the end, was again the stuff of pure fiasco. Dodd angled a back pass to the goalkeeper, who had abundant time and space to deal with it. Instead, comically, he kicked the ball straight at the advancing Dean Shurriffe, whence it rebounded, tantalisingly slowly, over the line into the goal.

Derby's first goal arrived after six minutes of the second half. Jones rushed ill-advisedly out of goal to try to collect Rowett's right-wing corner. Delap anticipated him, flicking the ball on for Dailly to head against the bar, then into the net. When Southampton gained their last, late corner, Jones, with a futile gesture, cheered by the crowd, trotted towards the Derby area — but it was not his day. He could not even get there in time.

Southampton's hopes faded when Francis Benali was sent off, five minutes after the first goal, for allegedly elbowing Shurriffe. He had already been given the foul and, as David Jones, his manager, said, should simply have walked away. This was his eleventh expulsion.

It was a bleak afternoon for admirers of Matthew Le Tissier. David Jones had to admit: "I've seen him play better." So, indeed, have we all.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P. Jones — J. Dodd, K. Worrall, C. Leaburn, R. Bales, C. Palmer, M. Oakley, K. Gibson (sub: A. Williams, 78min) M. Le Tissier — E. O'Sullivan, D. Hirst (sub: S. Sturridge, 69). DERBY COUNTY (4-4-2): M. Poom — R. Kodjak (sub: C. Powell, 68), G. Rowett, J. Laurin, C. Dailly — R. Delap, M. Scale (sub: P. van der Laan, 62), J. Carberry, L. Schmen — P. Wadsworth (sub: D. Burton, 82), D. Shurriffe. Referee: M. Riley.

Hayles goal nets Rovers costly path to play-offs

By Russell Kempson

BRISTOL Rovers' qualification for the second division play-offs might have delighted the home supporters at the Memorial Ground on Saturday, but it proved costly for the management. Barry Hayles scored the winning goal in the 2-1 victory against Brentford and it meant that Rovers now have to pay Stevenage Borough a sum of £50,000.

When Hayles moved from Stevenage to the West Country for a fee of £250,000 last summer, a condition of the deal was that Rovers would have to pay extra if Hayles reached 25 goals for the season. With an admirable sense of timing — though not for Brentford, who were relegated — he reached the total with only six minutes remaining.

Rovers will play Northampton Town in the play-off semi-finals — Fulham and Grimsby Town meet in the other match — but Gillingham and Wrexham will rue what might have been after missing out on goals scored. Gillingham drew 0-0 at home to Wigan Athletic and Wrexham's 3-1 win away to Southern United was not enough, either.

In the third division, Lincoln City secured the third automatic promotion place with a 2-1 win against Brighton at Sincil Bank. Barnet hung on to their play-off place, in which they will now play Colchester United, while Scarborough take on Torquay United in the other semi-final. Cardiff City and Hartlepool United at least created history at the end of undistinguished campaigns. Their shared games against Darlington and Peterborough United respectively took their tally of drawn games to 23, equalling the League record.

UPS AND DOWNS

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Champions: Watford. Promoted: Barnsley. Play-offs: Fulham v Grimsby (first leg May 8, second leg May 13), Bristol Rovers v Northampton (first leg May 10, second leg May 13), Scarborough v Torquay (first leg May 10, second leg May 13). First round: May 22, Wembley. Relegated: Doncaster.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: FULHAM CONTEST PLAY-OFFS DESPITE DEFEAT BY SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS

Taylor assured of fans' vote

Fulham.....1
Watford.....2
By Ivo Tennant

GRAHAM TAYLOR, like the Prime Minister, has been in office for exactly one year. He, too, was well aware last May of his expectant public. What he did not let on, not until Watford were assured of becoming champions of the Nationwide League second division on Saturday, was the concern that he felt over whether he would be able to cope once more with management at this level of the game.

After all, two decades had passed since Fulham had last been in the third division. And there had been the little matter of managing England on a wider stage in the interim. How, then, could he motivate himself sufficiently to propel Watford back on to a higher plane?

"The key," he said, "is the relationship I have had with the players, some of whom have won nothing before now."

He could have spoken, too, of the relationship he has with the supporters. After Watford's victory over Fulham, and when the news of Bristol City's defeat was picked up from the numerous radios held aloft on the shale at Craven Cottage, Taylor strode over to a crowd that he has empathised with for so many years and punched the air in delight.

No matter that this precipitated a pitch invasion. It was harmonious enough, not least because Fulham had learnt that, in spite of losing, they had a place in the play-offs. Those Watford supporters who swung on the crossbar of one of the goals had, for once, no intention of dismantling it. Watford never really looked as if they would lose, even

when Beardsley, who will remain on loan with Fulham until at least the end of the play-offs, struck a superlative, right-footed goal from just outside the penalty area. Had he played in his customary central attacking position and not been deployed, bewilderingly, on the left side of midfield for much of the match, the result might well have been different.

Beardsley was once far from Taylor's favourite player, yet there was generosity in his praise on Saturday. "Peter is a very good lad. It was from about that angle that he scored when we beat Poland in my second match as the England manager. He is the sort of player who can change a game like that."

Taylor was not above lampooning himself, either. He was pleased that Lee, his first signing last summer, scored the winning goal, taken well from a header by Hazon. "But

I always said I preferred turnips first, pineapples second," he added with the realisation of one who knows that barbed remarks belong to his past and that jokes about players' hairstyles will always find a receptive audience.

Noel Williams gave Watford the lead after 35 minutes, turning in a cross from Hude. All that was missing was the presence of Sir Elton John. Watford's great benefactor, who was in Atlanta. By the time he caught up with the time difference, Taylor was already contemplating how to ask him for money to ensure that never again do they return to the second division.

FULHAM (4-4-2): M. Taylor — M. Lawrence, C. Coleman, M. Blake, R. Bennett — W. Collins, P. Bracken, N. Smith (sub: P. Trovati, 78min), P. Beardsley — P. Moody, P. Pechisoldo (sub: T. Thompson, 69). WATFORD (3-5-2): A. Chambers — K. Allen, S. Palmer (sub: N. Gibson, 28), T. Moorey — D. Butler, A. Hagan, P. Jackson, M. Hude, P. Kennedy — J. Lee, G. Neal, Williams (sub: P. Robinson, 68). Referee: M. Burns.



Millen, left, and Pechisoldo have an eye on possession

Relieved Waddle escapes with his pride still intact

Burnley.....2
Plymouth Argyle.....1
By Nick Szczepanik

ALL the breathless excitement at a packed Turf Moor on Saturday could have been in vain, of course, if Brentford had pressed home their man advantage against Bristol Rovers, the two headed goals by Andy Cooke that won this game would not have kept Burnley in the Nationwide League second division.

The Plymouth Argyle reply, headed in at close range by Mark Saunders between Cooke's two strikes, would not have guaranteed a nailbiting finish, as the visitors strove for a late equaliser to keep them up and send Burnley down instead. Shots against the crossbar by Weller and Little and saves by Sheffield and Woods would have been forgotten.

In the end, though, it turned out well for the home side and Chris Waddle, their player-manager, who took over in the

summer with high hopes of bringing his version of the Beautiful Game to Burnley. He ended up on Saturday a hero of sorts simply for pulling them back from the brink of a relegation to which he himself had led them.

"In my eyes, it's not a success," he admitted. "If we'd finished ninth or tenth, or just missed the play-offs, you'd think 'it's dead easy, this job', but it isn't. It's been hard."

Waddle's first season in management started badly — Burnley did not win a league game until October 11 — but team changes, mostly promotions from the reserves and youth team, have enabled him to salvage the club's position as well as his own pride, which one senses has been hurt by those pleased to see a big name coming to grief.

The so-called experts have never seen us play," he said. "They don't know what happens behind the scenes. On our form, in the second half of the season, we wouldn't be far from the play-offs, but we've been playing catch-up. We

have a team I think will finish in the top half next year and young players playing with a lot of talent. I've left all right and my philosophy hasn't changed."

Whether or not Waddle will be allowed to steer Burnley onward depends, he said, on "the people in charge", all of whom those people will be depends, in turn, on the outcome of takeover talks with not one but two consortiums.

Spare a thought for Plymouth, whose manager, Mick Jones, knows all about distractions from behind the scenes. "I believe we deserved a draw today," he said. "When you see players distraught and in tears, you can't pick them up. I'll probably feel it more tomorrow."

Spare a thought, too, for Barry Conlon, on loan to Argyle from Manchester City. Out of the frying pan... BURNLEY (4-4-2): C. Woods — C. Baze, M. Moore, G. Harrison, M. Winesbury — G. Little, D. Matthews, M. Ford, P. Weller — A. Cooke, A. Payton. PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (4-4-2): J. Sheffield — P. Weston, M. Heathcote, S. Woods, P. Williams (sub: S. Coffey, 67min) — M. Barlow (sub: E. Jones, 77), M. Saunders, P. Starbuck (sub: R. Mearns, 69), D. Conlon — B. Conlon, G. Corcoran. Referee: P. Taylor.

Torquay faithful endure full gamut of emotions

Leyton Orient.....2
Torquay United.....1
By Bill Edgar

AN EXHAUSTING and agonising day for Helen Chamberlain, television presenter and Torquay United supporter, reached its climax when she witnessed a moment that will go down in Devon's sporting folklore.

After rising at 4am to co-anchor a four-hour football show for Sky Television, she had gone to Brisbane Road to watch her team try to gain the point that would clinch promotion to the Nationwide League second division.

Standing in the front row, she had been almost within touching distance of Paul Gibbs, her boyfriend and Torquay's left back, when he sent over a cross that Andy MacFarlane slotted home to reduce Leyton Orient's lead to 2-1 with 12 minutes left. Then, seven minutes into stoppage time, with the referee's watch apparently having stopped,

time itself seemed to stop for Chamberlain and the other 2,000 Torquay fans.

Alex Watson had headed Gibbs's corner against a post and the ball had been turned back towards goal. It bobbed around just three yards from the line as more and more players piled in hoping to apply the touch that would give Torquay their first automatic promotion since 1966.

But eventually a free kick was given against them and, shortly afterwards, they were contemplating a play-off against Scarborough.

"It was a real free-for-all, ricocheting off six or seven players," Gibbs said. "How the ball didn't go in, I'll never know." Its failure to do so did at least postpone the need for

Chamberlain to keep a promise by showing the Torquay players the club badge tattooed on her buttock if they were promoted.

The entire Torquay team looked as if it had been up since 4am during a feeble first-half display when Orient took control. Jon Citens had barely put down his player-of-the-year trophy when his back-pass and subsequent trip on Craig Maskell in the fourth minute led to a penalty that Dean Smith converted.

Another Torquay mistake was then partly responsible for Maskell's volleyed goal in the 25th minute. Ken Veysey, the Torquay goalkeeper, was sent off for bringing down Joe Baker in the 57th minute and will be suspended if Torquay reach the play-off final.

LEYTON ORIENT (3-5-2): C. MacKenzie — D. Smith, S. Clark, M. Warren — M. Joseph, R. Joseph, M. Ling, A. Hughes — J. Harris (sub: J. Baker, 77min) — C. Maskell (sub: D. Marshall, 90), G. Simpson (sub: P. Raynor, 88). TORQUAY UNITED (3-5-2): K. Veysey — A. Gurney, J. Gibbs, A. Watson, J. Richardson, P. Gibbs — S. McCall (sub: A. Bideau, 65), G. Clayton, K. Hill (sub: C. Bitter, 65) — R. Jack, A. MacFarlane. Referee: A. Leslie.

Rovers look to future after second title success

Forest Green Rovers.....2
Bath City.....0
By Walter Gammie

CHAMPIONS of the southern division last season, Forest Green Rovers on Saturday carried off the Dr Martens premier division title, setting up the kill by beating Merthyr Tydfil, their tenacious rivals, 3-1 on Wednesday night and finishing the job with victory over Bath City before a crowd of 1,678 at The Lawn.

To underline the achievement, one need merely consider that Vauxhall Conference football will next season be played in a Gloucestershire village of 400 souls that sits on a hill above Nailsworth. "I felt that if we were going to win the league this was the year we were going to do it," Frank Grogan, the manager, said. "Teams weren't used to us and our different style of play."

"I don't want to patronise my players but we over-achieved. We milked every point we could from every game. There is a great spirit. The players stick together on and off the pitch. Nobody leaves after training without sharing a drink — they get fined if they do!"

Grogan has given old legs a new lease of life as clearly seen in Gary Smart, 36, his captain, who had missed the tail end of Bath's promotion-winning campaign to the Conference in 1989-90 with a broken leg. Smart was in the thick of the action. He settled fraying nerves by seizing on the rebound from a shot by Hunt to lash in Rovers' opening goal in the 34th minute. He then played a superb pass through the defence for Alex Sykes to touch in the second in the 74th minute. "No disrespect to Bath," Smart said, "but the last two years have been my most enjoyable." It was then off to join a party that nobody was in danger of skipping.

FOREST GREEN ROVERS (3-1-2-2): J. Shuttleworth — C. Horner, M. Coupe, G. Dicks — S. Wines, P. McLoughlin (sub: M. Kilgour, 68min), T. Callinan, A. Sales (sub: J. Jackson, 89) — G. Smart (sub: J. Jones, 84) — P. Hunt, M. Hallett. BATH CITY (3-1-4-2): M. Harvin — I. Hodges, G. Weston, C. Taylor (sub: M. Stevens, 74) — R. Skidmore (sub: M. Paul, 66) — M. Wyatt, O. Loyden, P. Chownish, S. Jones — G. Colbourne, M. Davis. Referee: M. Forster.

Eagles fly in the face of modern obsession

Everything was against it. A great occasion can take a dull and one-sided match in its stride, as countless FA Cup Finals have shown us, but the trouble is that rugby league's Challenge Cup final is no longer a great occasion. More of your pre-season friendly, a fossil, miraculously preserved intact from the deep past, fascinating enough for sporting palaeontologists but hardly relevant to the determined modernists of the JJB Super League.

Rugby league is the sport that believed its own manager-speak: "The league's the thing. The cup is just a distraction. I'd swap the glory for maximum points in the next league game."

This sort of talk means that

the FA Cup Final has become a mildly despised consolation prize, but it is worse with the Challenge Cup final. It is just a warm-up for the summer-long Super League. The entire rhythm of the sport changed when rugby league linked up with BSkyB and abandoned its wintry traditions. The Challenge Cup final was once a grand end-of-term festival: now it is rather like those breakfast snacks that they keep advertising, something to gobble up on your way to something important.

And everything about this particular Challenge Cup final pointed to a disappointment inside a disappointment. Wigan are back at their best, four wins out of four in the league so far,

and boasting the greatest tradition in sport of casual cup-gobbling. They have won the Challenge Cup ten times in the past 14 years: their opponents, Sheffield Eagles, had not won the cup in the mere 14 years of their history.

And Sheffield Eagles, a rugby league team wished on to a footballing city in one of sport's regular outbreaks of *folie de grandeur*, had won only once in the present Super League season. Their supporters, such as they are, mostly couldn't be bothered to go to Wembley for the blow-out. This was, at 60,000 or so, the lowest crowd ever for a Challenge Cup final, a suitable stat for an occasion past its sell-by date.

So I returned from my



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

outing to Newmarket to watch the latest Horse of the Century ready to switch on the video, prepared for a dreary, one-sided match. Still, by the second half, Wigan would be playing like Harlem Globetrotters and I would cheer in delight for my Wigan genes.

But a pity, all the same, I reflected, as I made my way home, having witnessed the scattering of the ashes of the hopes of the Horse of the

Century, a pity that the game's best public occasion — for a Saturday afternoon audience of terrestrial television brings in numbers out of all proportion to the audience on Sky — has become such a damp squib.

Some people never learn. Sport never ceases to surprise. If art were like sport, Hamlet would marry Ophelia, Oedipus would arrive at the crossroads and say "after you" and

Mimi would say she was feeling an awful lot better and why don't we all go out for a drink?

Sheffield Eagles played this one rather like Mimi. They were supposed to be doomed for the earliest of early graves, but, instead, they perked up and went out for a drink. It was the afternoon that the Washington Towers beat the Harlem Globetrotters, a wonderful afternoon of underdoggy, the very stuff of sport — which made it wonderful television. You simply can't spoil stuff that good. All you have to do is let the sport happen, keep the ball in the middle of the screen and have the commentator identify the players.

And, to its credit, the BBC

managed, on the whole, to keep the director's gimmicks to the minimum. Ray French, the commentator, is too old a hand to go on about how much we are enjoying ourselves, a trick that drives you mad with Sky's Super League coverage. Sky's other great trick is to bring us action replays when the ball is live. Now the BBC has followed: it is a gimmick that is fast becoming standard. See, that's what happened two minutes ago and ooh, I say, look where the ball is now, I wonder how it got there, it's a try, isn't it?

The BBC did not go mad with this gimmick on Saturday, but it should not use it at all, ever. The live ball should be sacred and to cut away from it, even for a second — oh

look, there's a man in a suit looking worried — should be regarded as heresy.

I'm frightfully sorry if this interferes with the director's creativity. Tough: your job when covering live action is what television does best — so why spoil your best trick?

Ungimmicked live action is enough to hold anyone's attention when the match is half-decent and this was a wonderful match on a day that, despite itself, turned into a wonderful occasion. It was yet another day on which sport gave us Hamlet's wedding. Polonius gave away the bride — oh, doesn't she look sane — Claudius and Gertrude were delighted and they all lived happily ever after.

"They slogged it out in the knowledge that, whoever won, they'd both be in the lion's tum by teatime"

Stand oop if you're on your way down

A warm Britannia welcome was what they called it in the programme. "This afternoon we give a warm Britannia welcome to Manchester City, who like ourselves desperately need to win today, or else!" It was the larkly exclamation mark that was so touching. "Or else!" didn't seem quite to cover one's actual expectations of the game: didn't fit with the concept of "Crunch Sunday" or with the "bloodbath" that had also been mentioned confidently by my colleagues.

Staying overnight in Stoke on Saturday, I couldn't help noticing portents of gloom. Instead of sweets at the checkout in Food Giant, they had razor-blades. Lots of razor-blades. "You can't miss the Britannia Stadium, it's next to the incinerator," I was told. A nice cheerful spot, then, on which to stage a pyrrhic battle like this one.

The permutations for the game yesterday were so complicated that I started wishing I'd paid more attention to the higher maths bits in *Good Will Hunting*. If Man City won, they might still go down; if Stoke City won, they might go down. Alternatively, if they drew, they might both stay up. And if Man City lost or Stoke lost, and Portsmouth lost, and Belinda's eyes are bright green but she does not like oranges, then QED, we all live on a yellow submarine.

"Stand oop, if you've got a slide-rule, stand oop," should have been the chant, I thought, yesterday, as the game began. The only incontrovertible thing was that this match would have big nasty crowd trouble, and that by the law of averages, it would end in a largish quantity of tears. It was just a matter of how many hankies to hand out in the car park, and of what prevailing colour.

So, strange to report, it was an uplifting occasion, really. It had a bit of heroism. Yes, there was crowd trouble early on. The tension was awful: scuffles broke out,

LYNNE TRUSS



men with VIP tags in my section of the ground were repeatedly suppressed by the stewards and I discussed with the chap from *The Guardian* whether we ought to start some argy-bargy between ourselves, so as not to feel left out. And, yes, in terms of relegation, it was ultimately pointless, because with Portsmouth and Port Vale winning elsewhere, our two valiant teams might just as well have sat quietly on the pitch, drinking lager and listening to records.

But they didn't. Man City won 5-2, the roar was stupendous. *Blue Moon* was bellowed out and the whole event was historic in a desperate kind of way. It was a sort of "We who are about to die, salute you" — only without the togas. In the second half, they slogged it out like gladiators in the full knowledge that, whoever won, they'd both be in the lion's tum by teatime.

Since we were all supposed to feel sorry for Man City — 11 years without sinking so low — I found myself sorry for Stoke. For one thing, I wore an ancient Stoke



A Manchester City supporter is inconsolable after discovering that, despite winning 5-2, his team was going down. Photograph: Ross Kinnaid/Allsport

scarf in the picture that used to accompany this column (it belonged to the photographer), and for another, I've got a natural prejudice in favour of the home side, the underdogs and the ones that can't score for toffee. Stoke had all three.

There was additional tragedy in the fact that Stoke recently spent millions on this big new stadium, only to find out that Sunderland got a much better job for the same money. On top of which, it's pretty sad that the ground's first capacity

show comes on the occasion of their most miserable hour.

Poor Stoke, eh? The fans will suffer horribly now that local rivals Port Vale have survived. Meanwhile, my *Football Fan's Guide* (out of date) told me to look for a fanzine called *Vind. Vind.* — but funny enough, it wasn't in evidence. Instead, I bought *The Oatcake* — clearly a homelier title, with fewer pretensions and nice with a bit of cheese.

"Stand oop, if you're in denial,

stand oop," the crowd sang. Actually, I have no idea what they were standing up for, but denial was certainly what it looked like. In the second half, with death-knell scores coming in from the other matches, calculations got simpler and simpler. Higher maths gave way to a simple sum in which no beans equalled no beans.

But there was still more to blot from one's mind — ironies, for example. Alan Ball's Portsmouth were making sure that two clubs once managed by him went down.

I also noticed that Shaun Goater, who scored two goals for Manchester City, would be suffering a special reversal — going back down to the second division, while his old team, Bristol City, blithely went up. And he must have been so happy about his upward move, too.

The football wasn't particularly good, incidentally. It was mainly out of control, with errors providing the excitement. But with the crowd strung like a piano wire, you'd have thought you were

watching the best match ever played, if you listened from outside. From a ground holding 28,000 people, I've never heard anything like it.

I suppose freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose. But you should never underestimate mindless hatred, either. Until the very end, both sets of supporters mindlessly pointed extended arms at each other — "you're going down, you're going down" — and somehow derived the utmost pleasure from it.

SPORTS LETTERS

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

e-mail to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk
Correspondence should include address and postcode

Sharing TV football

From the Controller of BBC Sport

Sir, I am sure football fans everywhere will be impressed by the superstitious and public-spirited letter from David Elstein (Sports Letters, April 27) asking that the BBC share its live television rights to Chelsea's Cup Winners' Cup final on May 13.

These fans may wish to know that, acknowledging Channel 5's involvement with Chelsea, the BBC offered highlights of the final to Channel 5 last December. Channel 5's response was that these were "of little value".

Does David Elstein's conversion to duplication of "live" football coverage on television mean that he will also make the sporting gesture of offering to the whole audience, via the BBC, live coverage of England's qualifying matches in the European championships to which his channel has exclusive rights?

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN MARTIN,
Television Centre,
Wood Lane,
W12 7RJ.

Opinion, please

From Mr Jeremy Gomm

Sir, I share Michael Henderson's admiration for Stuart Hall's trenchant post-match allegories on Radio 5 Live (April 25). Mr Henderson's own reports are littered with opinions, which is why I always seek out his byline in your sports pages. I have wondered at the brass neck of returning to a cricket ground whose home team will be reeling from the latest Henderson onslaught.

A colleague of mine on *The Birmingham Post* in the 1970s once faced the wrath of a noted local footballer for referring to him in a match report as ubiquitous, which had been taken as an insult.

As to Radio 5's broadcasters, it may be that the BBC has deliberately separated commentary (as in "no comment") from comment, supplied by expert assistants, some of whom are excellent, while others demonstrate a propensity to repeat the commentator's question as an answer, sometimes in an impenetrable accent (especially if they used to be a winger in Newcastle).

Yours sincerely,
JEREMY GOMM,
25 Mere Road,
Blackpool FY3 9AU.

Eccentric timings in the London Marathon

From Mr Neville Benbow

Sir, I was perplexed by one of the statistics in the London Marathon listings published today (April 28).

My twin brothers, Alistair and Nicholas, completed the course in 3hr 40min 16sec, their remarkable consistency because of the fact that they ran the marathon three-legged, achieving a new world record time (previously 3hr 58min 33sec).

While appreciating that you are publishing figures supplied by EDS, the official suppliers of computers to the race, I was somewhat intrigued to see that the identical times for three other runners appear between my brothers' finishing times. Indeed this is remarkable given that they were tied at the ankle and wrist and were wearing a pair of specially made

Velcro shirts

From Mr Ian Craggs

Sir, May I thank Mr Boyce (April 27) for exposing the football shirt loophole. I now fully expect large football clubs to develop a new type of Velcro three times a season.

Yours faithfully,
IAN CRAIGGS,
12 The Rockery,
Farnborough GU14 0RG.

Fixture jam

From Mr William Woodward
Sir, Dick Curtis (April 27)

three-legged trousers. Is there an explanation?

Yours sincerely,
NEVILLE A. BENBOW,
40 Coronation Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4HA.

From Mr Clive Dunnico

Sir, As a runner whose result was published, I make a plea for the brave souls who finished after 6hr 11min 25sec, whose times were not listed.

On the way home our club members saw from our coach a camel trotting along the Embankment — surely s/he deserves a published result. S/he must have the hump.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE R. DUNNICO,
Ingleholm, 17 Vernon Road,
Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2NG.

organise Loftus Road to be made available, they were unwilling to play at Sudbury and they refused to play at Welford Road.

Perhaps the RFU and clubs could agree that a side failing to confirm the availability of a suitable pitch should automatically lose home advantage!

Yours etc,
WILLIAM J. WOODWARD,
Kadana,
High Easter Road,
Leaden Roding, Dunmow,
Essex CM6 1QF.
Bill-Woodward@email.msn.com

Making rugby attractive

From Mr Peter Deakin

Sir, In reply to Simon Barnes's article (April 20), the recent titanic clash between second placed Saracens and the Premiership leaders, Newcastle, was indeed a landmark sporting event. How many times this century has a fledgling professional sport attracted 20,000 people on a rainy Sunday afternoon?

Our target at Saracens is to minimise boom and bust, and generate consistency. No one team or individual is immune to a loss of form or a loss of support. At the game in question, about 6,000 adults were in attendance as a result of our cashback scheme. The rationale is very simple. Organisations take blocks of adult tickets to sell at full price to their supporters; they return the proceeds to Saracens, who then give a "cashback" (amount equal to half the sales (less VAT)). What these tickets represent to Saracens is not the relevant issue. It is what these tickets mean to those 6,000 spectators and their children that counts.

They had a ticket — they were there, in the rain and the

wind and the tension and the excitement. They wanted to come and every last one of them paid a full £10 for the ticket. In seeing Saracens keep the Premiership title race alive, they also put money back into their organisation, their kids' school or the local mini-rugby section.

This visit to Saracens is only part of a whole programme of contact with the club. Our Rugby in the Community programme is not a missionary crusade to find the next Lynagh or Bracken; it is a whole range of projects in schools, clubs and other organisations to involve Saracens in the lives of youngsters, parents, teachers, policemen, councillors, nurses, patients. It is a continuous programme to make Saracens a resource in the locality.

There is no selling-out of any heartland. These principles apply to Enfield just as much as Watford. It is early days. Saracens are under no illusions that boom time is already here, it is not — yet. But we will do everything to keep the progress going.

Yours sincerely,
PETER DEAKIN,
Sales & Marketing Director,
Saracens RFC,
Vicarage Road,
Watford WD1 8ER.

This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow**
Newcastle take on Leicester needing a win to maintain the pressure on Saracens at the top of rugby union's Allied Dunbar Premiership

■ **Wednesday**
After Atherton: England name the man who will lead England into the Test series against South Africa this summer

■ **Thursday**
Brian Glanville reports from Paris on the all-Italian Uefa Cup final between Lazio and Internazionale, featuring Ronaldo (above)

■ **Saturday**
Football Saturday: the final Premiership weekend, Oliver Holt, Frank Lehoucq on Chelsea's Cup Winners' Cup prospects, and Danny Baker.

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, finds Michael Atherton determined to prove himself once more

Captain's innings leaves no room for regrets

Some captains are lionised because their teams habitually win, others because they have the gift of oration to do and say the right thing. By the harshest judgments, Michael Atherton fell short on both counts and consequently left his post to unspectacular public grieving.

Tomorrow, when Alec Stewart is unveiled as his successor amid the usual, illogical optimism of the new broom, those who wished Atherton only good riddance may imagine him viewing events darkly, resentment mixed with regret. Not a bit of it. He has observed the election campaign with detachment and occasional amusement, ribbing his friend Angus Fraser over being tipped for the job or seeing Stewart appear on *Blue Peter*, but never with possessive-ness.

Atherton has no wish to turn back the clock. After 52 Tests in charge, a record that will take some beating in these unforgiving times, he denies having had more than a momentary sense of loss since returning from the Caribbean and emphatically rejects the theory that he could or should have approached the job differently.

"My strongest advice to the new captain would be to do it his own way," Atherton said. "Honour the position, never demean it but always be yourself. I did the job the way I wanted to and that is the main reason I have had no regrets."

To see him is to believe it. In a crowded Manchester brasserie, he was bright-eyed, good-humoured and plainly infused with new ambitions. This was not a man mourning his reduced status. Atherton is at peace with his retirement and content with his legacy, even if others, apparently, are not.

Last week, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, set out his expectations of the next captain in a style that could be interpreted as implied criticism of Atherton. The captain "needs to be a good communicator and gregarious."



Atherton is at peace with his past as he hands on the England captaincy and is looking forward to securing his future as a Test batsman. Photograph: Ross Seford

Lord MacLaurin said. "Image is crucial."

Atherton would not recognise himself in these demands and, while disinclined to take it personally, begs to differ. "Image is irrelevant," he said. "It doesn't win cricket matches. Good batting and bowling does that. Playing entertaining, successful cricket satisfies the public better than anything. How you look on the way to or from the ground is immaterial."

He has never shifted from this uncompromising stance, sometimes taking it to obnoxious extremes, and he acknowledges that it has damaged him. His approach to captain's press conferences, as

opposed to his individual dealings with journalists, was to be unhelpfully bland. For those seeking headline material, this was obstructive.

"I quickly came to realise that the bottom line with newspapers is whether you win or lose," he said. "Almost everything they write about a captain is driven by results, so I considered it irrelevant. I wouldn't play their game. I didn't go out of my way to make friends, so I doubtless made a few enemies. If I have gained a poor public image through this, it's probably my own fault."

Atherton's ability to withstand criticism, fair and foul, has been

thoroughly tested but one newspaper, with a staggering disregard for fact and feelings, recently claimed that he would be excluded from England's plans because he would poison the dressing-room. This was a slur too far.

"I read very few papers now but you cannot avoid everything," he said. "Just occasionally, I read something about myself that seems cruel and unnecessary, something that seems designed to hurt my career... and then I do feel angry, because there is nothing I can do."

Right on cue came evidence that the public has not unanimously disowned him. A woman crossed

the restaurant and stood shyly at our table before delivering a speech of thanks and support. "I'm sorry it was such a rotten job," she added. "It really wasn't, you know," Atherton replied. "It was a terrific job."

Despite everything, he still believes it. Almost five years in the goldfish bowl, having his every step scrutinised while England, his England, alternately raised and dashed the hopes of the nation, may have wearied Atherton but signally failed to sour him.

He decided it must end the day it rained in Barbados, possibly denying England victory in the match and, certainly, in a series he had

believed should be won. For a week, until the final Test had been played out, he stayed silent. Even his team-mates did not know he was about to resign.

His last press conference was as sober and straight-faced as all his others, but this time it was an effort, a performance. "I was damned if I was going to show my feelings in public," he said, offering an unwitting epitaph to his times. "In the dressing-room afterwards I was quite emotional."

"Since then, I have found it an easy thing to cope with. Once, in my car, I felt a bit sad thinking I would never lead the team out again but generally it's not been a

problem. There are no what-ifs. I had a good run and I chose my moment to go. If I'd been sacked, say during the dirt-packet business a few years back, I would have felt entirely different.

"At every ending, you can look back and identify things you could have done better but I am content that all my decisions were made for the right reasons and with the right intentions. I had good support. I enjoyed it. I can't ask for more."

He could, of course, have asked for a few more wins — series wins, rather than the stirring one-offs that have become England's habit. Atherton ranks the defeat in Trinidad in February, and its influence on his final series in charge, as "my biggest disappointment".

Stewart, his constant lieutenant, will not be inheriting a shambles, though, and Atherton is due some credit for toughening and unify-

After 52 Tests in charge, he denies more than a brief sense of loss

ing. England may still frustrate but they are no longer so easily swayed aside. "I think I have left behind a team," he said, "or at least the decent nucleus of one."

It is a team in which he fully intends to play a continuing role, and will do so as long as the form and fitness concerns of this fractured early season are conquered. He will not be picked for the one-day series against South Africa, which Adam Hoggie will captain, but runs in Lancashire's next two championship games should guarantee his Test place.

"I am looking forward to this season more than any since I left Cambridge," he said. "It comes from a feeling that I've got to prove something again, to create the next part of my career. It's a good motivating force and I've even got butterflies in my stomach."

Shah completes perfect day for Middlesex man

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss; Middlesex (4pts) beat Glamorgan by three wickets)

THIS was a wonderful victory for Middlesex. When Justin Langer, their Western Australian, pulled Robert Croft to mid-wicket a few moments before Arsenal were crowned champions, this game appeared to have ended as a contest. Middlesex have never cared much for this kind of cricket, bless 'em, and they show no signs of changing their ways, but there will always be afternoons such as this, when the game is turned upside down.

In the absence of Gatting and after the loss of Brown and Rumpakash, Langer represented their best chance of taking them close to the Glamorgan total of 218 for eight. Instead, it was Shah, the 19-year-old, who ensured that they won, making an unbeaten 88 from 74 balls.

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

When Johnson joined him in the 36th over, they were still 45 runs short. Johnson certainly played his part, driving Waqaar for a resounding six over extra cover and carving a boundary off the first ball of the last over, when Middlesex needed five, but in the end a leg-side wide by Waqaar carried them over the threshold.

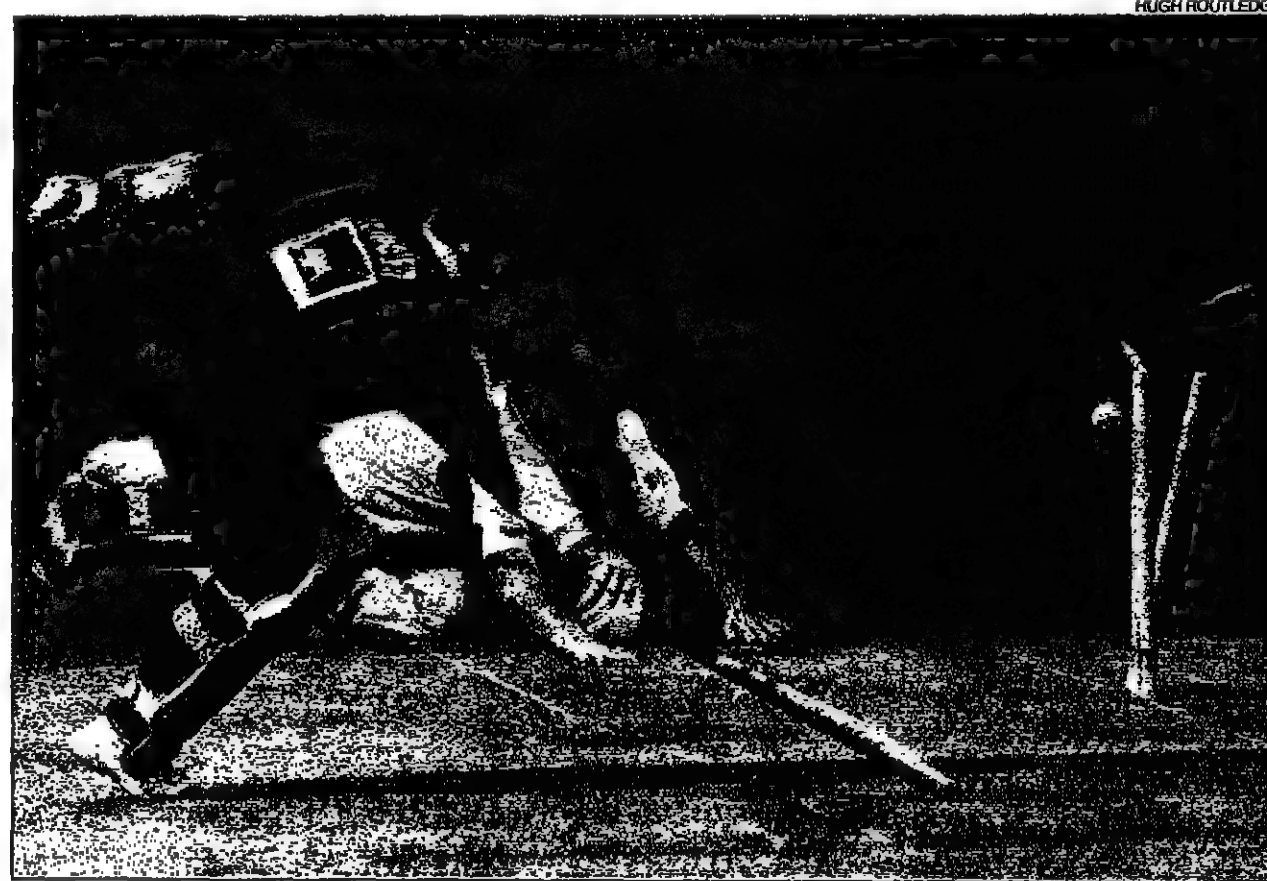
In the previous over, Shah cracked it. The over began with Middlesex 20 runs short, but the teenager brought down the requirement by slicing Thomas for four through mid-wicket and then driving a six over long-on.

It was a mighty effort by one so young. Glamorgan's defeat came at a greater cost. Before the game, doing those calisthenics that mark out the modern player from so many of his predecessors, Maynard, their captain, tweaked his groin and he could now be out for

three weeks. There is never a good time to go a-tweaking and he may rue the fact that the next fortnight is given over to the Benson and Hedges Cup, where his runs would have been very important.

It was hard lines on Maynard, who was put forward last month by Mark Nicholas as a credible contender for the England captaincy. Two days before the England committee decides who will succeed Michael Atherton and on the ground where the announcement will be made, it might have been construed as his way of withdrawing his candidacy, if minds had not already been made up.

Croft, the one-day opener, shone again with the bat. He had just reached another half-century when he was bowled by Johnson. It was the first of two fifties, because Cotney, the titch who led the Welshmen in Maynard's absence, contributed a stout 56 from 60 balls.



Croft, the Glamorgan all-rounder, makes his ground to beat Dutch's attempted run-out at Lord's yesterday

Smith leads the way as Sussex collapse

BY PAT GIBSON

ARUNDEL (Sussex won toss; Hampshire (4pts) beat Sussex by 76 runs)

THERE is no more picturesque setting in English cricket than the arboreal amphitheatre in the grounds of Arundel Castle, but it was not much fun for anybody there yesterday. It was hard work for the players on a slow pitch and outfield and there was little to warm the shivering spectators.

Not that Hampshire were complaining. They had far too much know-how for Sussex in these conditions. Robin Smith, well aware of his new responsibilities as captain, playing the key innings in a total of 183 for 9, and Peter Hartley, Kevan James and John Stephenson all bowling well as Sussex collapsed to 107 all out.

The new regime at Hove must be getting worried. They began the season full of optimism but after winning their first county championship game, they have now lost five one-day matches in a row. Worse still, this was their eighteenth defeat in their last 20 Axa League games.

They were soon showing evidence of numbed fingers yesterday, Adams dropping Lutter at slip and Kirley putting down a return chance from White before their more seasoned bowlers, Robinson and Jarvis, began to make inroads into the Hampshire batting.

Even when they were not dissident enough, and there was a fair sprinkling of wickets as Smith and Mascarenhas gave the innings substance with a fourth wicket stand of 59 in 13 overs, Mascarenhas, who has made such a good start to the season, drove Edwards to long on when he made 21 but Smith went on to 47 off 62 balls before he played on the back foot.

Aymes and Hartley hit 33 off the last four overs to set a target that was always going to take some getting.

Sussex never made any kind of fist of it; Hartley and James, far more accustomed to the cold and damp, quickly snuffed out any hope they had.

Hartley bowled Greenfield and had Adams caught behind by Aymes, who is as good as any wicketkeeper around, and James bowled Bevan for a duck. The rest went in pitiful fashion.

Stylish Moody proves decisive

WORCESTER (Worcester won toss; Worcester (4pts) beat Durham by 24 runs)

DURHAM could not quite come up with the runs that they needed from their tail to account for Worcestershire yesterday (Ivo Tennant writes).

A partnership of 104 in 14 overs between Jonathan Lewis and Paul Collingwood gave them an excellent chance of victory on a decent batting pitch, but their last five wickets went down for just five runs in 12 balls. The outstanding innings of the match had been played earlier by Tom Moody, who made 80 at almost a run a ball.

If Durham had won, they would have gone to the top of the Axa League table. Whether they will be in a position to have that opportunity again this season is a moot point.

Lewis made a characteristically gutsy 62, and Morris an insouciant 41, including a six onto the roof of the New Road stand off Moody, but Collingwood, Speight and the tail-enders could not bring about victory.

When Lewis was bowled by Illingworth, who had returned to the field after damaging a finger when dropping a return catch, Durham required 49 off six overs. They managed to bring this down to 33 off the

last four, only to lose Speight and then Collingwood, who was caught at mid-on in the same over from Sherritt.

Moody, who was playing in his first Sunday League match of the season after returning from Australia's visit to Sharjah, batted with all his customary finesse in this form of the game. The manner in which he picked up a short ball from Bowling and deposited it into New Road was a lovely piece of timing. His innings of 80 came from 89 balls and included five fours as well as that six.

His dismissal was a rarity. Speight, standing up to Collingwood's medium pace, stumped him down the legside — off a wide. This would not have been signalled in first-class cricket, but it was still a commendable piece of wicket-keeping. Moody had put on 110 off the first 20 overs with Solanki, and the impetus was more or less maintained by the middle order after that.

Yesterday

Axa League

Middlesex v Glamorgan

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss; Middlesex (4pts) beat Glamorgan by three wickets)

Worcester v Durham

WORCESTER (Worcester won toss; Worcester (4pts) beat Durham by 24 runs)

Sussex v Essex

ARUNDEL (Sussex won toss; Hampshire (4pts) beat Sussex by 76 runs)

Gloucestershire v Kent

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss; Kent (4pts) beat Gloucestershire by three wickets)

Nottinghamshire v Leicestershire

FRONT BRIDGE (Leicestershire won toss; Leicestershire (4pts) beat Nottinghamshire by eight wickets)

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WEEKEND'S SCOREBOARDS

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Axa League

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Saturday

Benson and Hedges Cup

Kent v Gloucestershire

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss; Kent (4pts) beat Gloucestershire by three wickets)

Gloucestershire v Kent

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Choice determines weather to fish

Brian Clarke explains how April's showers have whetted his appetite for angling

Arthur Ransome once wrote that "the pleasures of fishing are chiefly to be found in rivers, lakes and tackle shops, and, of the three, the last are least affected by the weather".

Last month, I took my own angling pleasures in the shops, swishing rods that I had no intention of buying, twiddling reels that were far beyond my pocket, poring over cases of flies and studying the odd one as though it were a cut gem. I bought a few hooks and fished, Ransome-style, by proxy. The wet, windy month that has just passed was the first April in years that I did not go to the water. I fear I am becoming a fair-weather fisherman.

It took a long time for the truth to sink in, but eventually it did. The pleasures of getting soaked to the skin and chilled to the bone are, like the pleasures of opposition for politicians, much exaggerated. The days when I would dash to the water whatever the forecast have long gone. The great fish hunger has eased. These days it is the challenge of the water when things are happening — especially the challenge of difficult fish that are feeding near the surface — that pulls my string.

I know what has prompted the change. It is not that I have fished a bit and have a few under my belt. It is something else. It is increased availability and choice.

Like most anglers I have, over the years, had to take my fishing when I could. Thanks first to school and then to work, weekends and holidays glowed like sunlit uplands around limited horizons. Each fishing minute was known, yearned-for and consumed.

Then, perversely, I made matters worse. In an attempt to extract every ounce of pleasure from what fishing time I could organise, I began to take season rods at places offering exceptional sport. I paid in two ways. One was through the nose, something all trout anglers understand, the other was through restriction: my fee bought me access for one fixed day or session each week.

The realisation that if I missed this booked day one week then I was doomed to a fishless fortnight was an ad-

vised incentive to go whatever the forecast. It was Saturday or Sunday or Wednesday evening. It was my time. Go.

Then the transformation. I engineered a greater flexibility in my work. I sought and joined a couple of small clubs that had no time restrictions. The rules were fish when you want, seven days a week if you like. Clubs run for mem-

bers can do that. Commercial fisheries, with their burdensome overheads and need to make a profit, cannot.

The sudden plenty took away all pressure. If it was a Saturday or a Sunday or a Wednesday evening, so what? There is this work to be done, that obligation to so-and-so, the garden reproaches. I'll go tomorrow — or maybe Thursday if my pal can get away as well.

So now it is not time that usually decides when I fish, but a package of things, high among them the weather. I do not mean I want good fishing weather before I will go: I just want pleasant, nice-to-be-out- weather. Blue skies and fluffy white clouds are perfect. But a gale? Count me out. Rain? Forget it.

Two things have happened as a result. One has been that I fish less now: no less intently if the fish are moving and certainly no less enjoyably, but simply for fewer days and fewer hours.

The most expensive sport that I have ever enjoyed gave me unhindered fishing on a prime beat of a superb river. Over the years, as the novelty wore off, the number of times I went each season fell steadily. Some seasons I went a dozen times or fewer. One year, I made just nine trips. When, in an idle moment, I divided nine into the annual rod fee, even the print in my chequebook went white.

When I'm on the bank I fish less as well. I am slower to tackle up. I take longer

over lunch. I am content, much of the time, to sit with my friends talking softly of this or that, or to enjoy the frenzied concentration of someone casting to a ring that they think was made by a trout, but which I know was made by a dabchick.

The second thing flexibility has given me has a down side. Because I can choose when I go, I do not often have to cope with the problems bad weather turns up. Rivers are not much of a problem, psychologically speaking, for whatever the weather, the fish are never far away, even if they are not showing.

On a big lake, however, when a cold wind is blowing and the rain is slanting down, fishing can not only be uncomfortable but the trout can be miles away. Finding them, coping and experimenting is the name of that game. Summoning, willpower and determination are the keys.

So, in the long term, fair-weather fishing does not help because it softens the steel and blunts the edge. That is the problem. Some day soon I must lie under a tree, pull my hat over my eyes and worry about it.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.



Bank holiday: a trout angler enjoys his session in the sunshine

MOTOR RALLYING

Burns ignites push in pursuit of world title

By Kevin Eason

IT IS fast, twisting and bumpy, the sort of track that presents a spectacle for on-lookers but stretches drivers and cars to their limits. The Tour de Corse, which starts in Corsica today, will claim a high attrition rate of broken cars and exhausted drivers over the next three days, but the chances are that Richard Burns will be there at the end and, if his record holds, in the points, too.

Burns is Britain's best hope for the world championship this year, eclipsing even Colin McRae, the nation's only world champion so far in an event traditionally dominated by Scandinavian drivers and Japanese cars.

But the entry of the young Englishman has been electrifying: he lies second in the championship after five rallies. But over the end of last season and the start of this, he has put together an astonishing run of ten consecutive finishes, nine with points, the sort of consistency that separates champions from the rest.

"Maybe I am tempting fate by talking about my ability to finish," he said. "I don't know this rally so I am hoping it is not going to take me by surprise anywhere, though a lot of the course seems very tricky."

It is not just the natural hazards of gravel and steep, undulating tracks that face the drivers but also some unexpected challenges. Last year, Burns's team-mate, Tommi Makinen, was on the brink of leading when he crashed into a stray cow.

"That is some of the special ingredient of rallying," Burns said. "It is not a case of being on a circuit and then hoping for reliability in the car. We



Burns: consistency

have to deal with uncertainties we sometimes cannot legislate for."

It was that very uncertainty that first attracted Burns to rallying. As a 15-year-old, he sublimated his desire to drive by trying out a racing and rallying school. Circuit driving left him unimpressed, its lap-after-lap monotony a stark contrast to rally driving, which demands as much sorcery as skill.

He was soon racking up titles, culminating in 1993 when he became the youngest driver to take the British championship, seven months younger than McRae, who had won the year before.

It seemed that the career paths of the two would be inextricably linked when Burns was hired as a support driver for McRae with the Subaru team, which gave the Scot his world title.

But a move to Mitsubishi has allowed Burns, 29, from Oxford, to blossom to the extent that his team could face a dilemma if he continues this charge to the world championship. Makinen is the world champion and No 1 driver and team orders could have meant Burns having to move over to allow his team-mate through to pursue another championship.

But with Burns two points ahead of Makinen — who is in fourth place with McRae — Mitsubishi Ralliart executives might fancy Burns as a better bet as the season develops, especially since he won the prestigious Safari Rally earlier in the year.

Getting it right has proved a Burns speciality so far this season and a win in Corsica would put the Briton ahead of some of the biggest names in rallying: Carlos Sainz, Juha Kankkunen and Didier Auriol, as well as Makinen and McRae.

He will not be overawed, though. After a long day exploring the Corsican countryside, Burns eschewed the offer of a cooling beer and to put his feet up, instead, he pulled on the trainers and went for a long, mind-clearing jog.

"There is no point in being overawed," he said. "It is a long run to the world championship and we have a long way to go. The objective is to finish, and finish with points."

SPEEDWAY

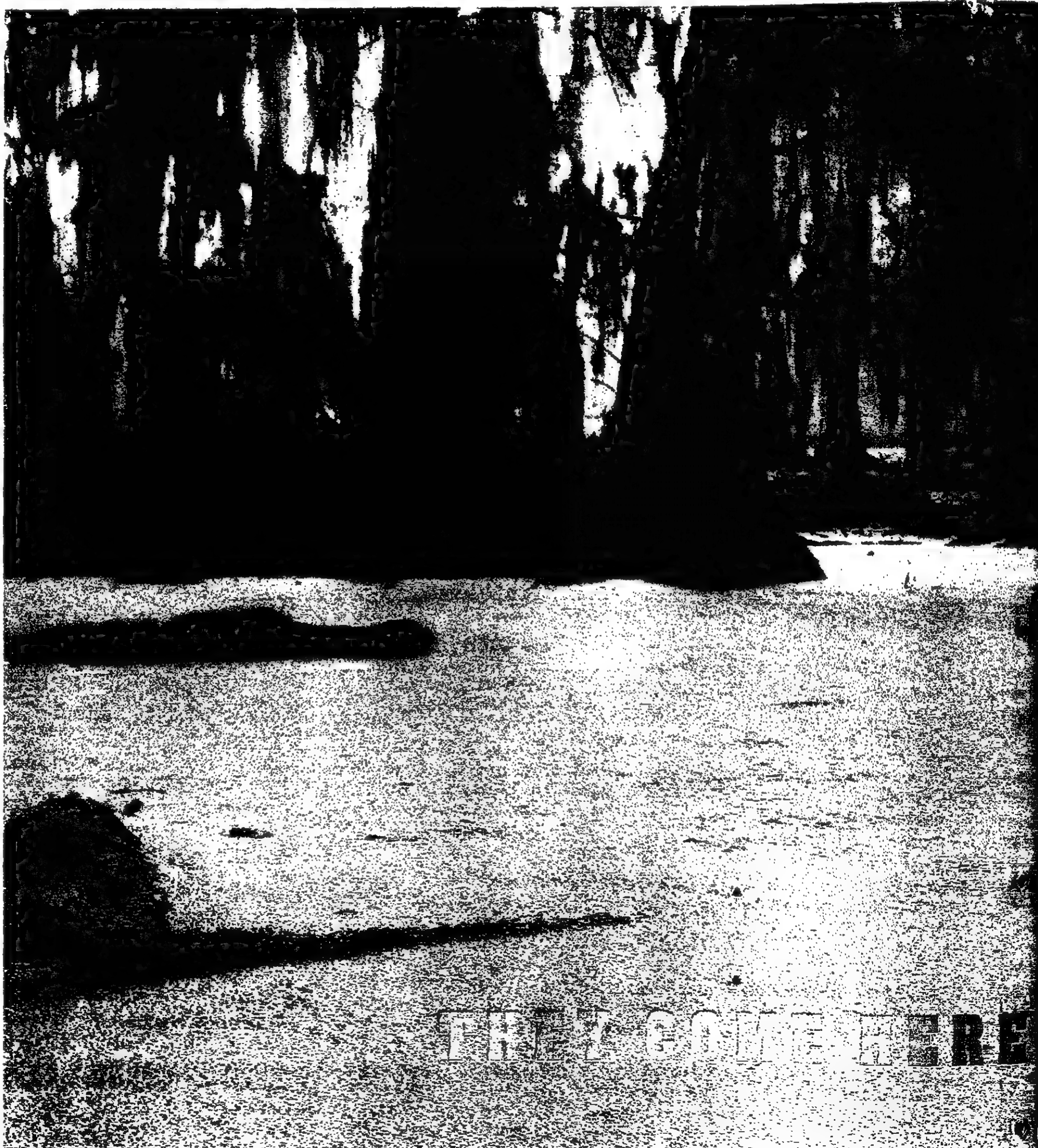
Havelock withdraws from England team

GARY HAVELOCK, of Eastbourne, has refused to ride for England after being stripped of the team captaincy by Dave Jessup, the national team manager. Havelock, Great Britain's last individual world champion, in 1992, reacted angrily after being told that he was not a guaranteed selection for the international side.

"I'm not going to ride for England again while Jessup is the manager," he said in a

statement. "I feel as if someone has stolen one of my most treasured possessions. I've had the captaincy taken away from me without so much as a cheers or thank you for my services. If that's loyalty, then I don't want to be part of the national team any more."

Jessup has made Chris Louis, whose father, John Louis, was the previous England manager, the captain for the series against Australia this summer.



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SNOOKER: LACKLUSTRE DOHERTY OUTPLAYED IN EARLY STAGES OF FINAL

Higgins seizes initiative

By Phil Yates

JOHN HIGGINS took a significant stride towards becoming world champion and world No 1 by establishing a 6-2 lead over Ken Doherty, the title-holder, after the first session of the best-of-35-frame final at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday.

Higgins exhibited such self-assurance in the latter stages of the session that it was easy to forget that so much hung on the outcome. Early on, though, he was understandably tentative and squandered a clear-cut opportunity to steal the opening frame by over-cutting a routine yellow off its spot with the other colours at his mercy. Those who thought that the occasion might overwhelm Higgins were soon proved wrong as he outscored a strangely lacklustre Doherty 350-28 over the course of the next four frames, compiling breaks of 53, 71, 66 and 43 in the process.

The loss of the sixth was another painful blow for Doherty. Trailing 55-0, he embarked on a potential clearance but, after marginally over-screwing the cue-ball in potting the yellow, jawed the green using the rest.

Higgins cleared up for 5-1 before a run of 130 swiftly propelled him into a 6-1 advantage. It was his tenth century break of the championship. Only Stephen Hendry,

with 12 in 1995 and 11 in 1996, has constructed more in a single championship. It was also the 24th hundred break from Higgins this season, placing him top of that statistical category.

An 89 break, launched by a speculative plant to a middle pocket, enabled Doherty to account for the closing frame of the afternoon but Higgins remained firmly in command.

Higgins had also been marginally the more impressive of the pair in completing a 17-9 victory over Ronnie O'Sullivan in the semi-finals on Saturday: Doherty's most appealing quality in beating Mark Williams 17-14 was a refusal to drop his head in periods of adversity.

Doherty was unable to rely on his usual fluency but that did not prevent him tenaciously recovering from 12-8 and 13-11 adrift. In so doing, Doherty became the only player since Joe Johnson in 1987 to return to the final 12 months after capturing the game's most coveted title for the first time.

With Higgins under the added pressure of being in a position to supplant Hendry as world No 1 after eight years of uninterrupted occupation, it was only natural that concerns were raised surrounding

his ability to shoulder such an immense burden in the sport's most important single match.

After all, Higgins played superbly to reach the final of the Grand Prix in October, only to lose 9-6 to Dominic Dale, the world No 54, and was also beaten 9-5 by Paul Hunter, ranked 43rd in the world.

SCORES

SEMI-FINALS: K Doherty (eng) bt M Williams (Wales) 17-14. Frame scores (Doherty first): 69-2, 67-47, 82-52, 39-45, 94-47, 10-32, 71-54, 73-69, 54-55, 115-2, 0-110, 49-53, 30-1, 40-73, 53-57, 35-60, 31-81, 1-73, 39-64, 33-74, 74-51, 78-4, 63-60, 41-69, 62-38, 64-50, 10-66, 71-30, 62-7, 73-5, 79-0. J Higgins (Scot) bt R O'Sullivan (Eng) 17-9. Frame scores (Higgins first): 65-5, 50-65, 17-9, 104-0, 109-21, 0-11, 100-32, 44-57, 69-54, 72-49, 104-0, 109-21, 0-11, 132-0, 12-1, 66-1, 64-65, 20-68, 65-6, 39-64, 59-64, 79-55, 66-66, 46-75, 69-0, 118-9.

FINAL: Higgins leads Doherty 6-2. Frame scores (Higgins first): 54-73, 60-20, 86-7, 71-1, 113-0, 73-52, 130-0, 0-89.

in the Regal Welsh Open final three months ago.

Yet, in dispatching O'Sullivan so comfortably, Higgins, armed with the experience gained from winning eight world-ranking tournaments during his short career, showed the unflappable qualities so necessary to triumph at the Crucible. Over the course of the previous four rounds, the form

displayed by Higgins was of an appreciably higher standard than that of the incumbent champion.

Higgins leads Doherty 4-2 in head-to-head meetings and carries no psychological scars, although Doherty did defeat him 13-9 in the quarter-finals of the championship last year. Then, however, Higgins's mind was in turmoil as a result of cue problems that were continuing to beset him.

"I don't want to sound big-headed but I honestly believe I would already have been world No 1 if my cue hadn't been such a headache," Higgins said. The Scot had been forced to change equipment in January 1997 when his original cue became unusable through wear and tear.

The European Open title was the solitary fruit of Higgins's labours last season. During the 1997-98 campaign, he has won the German Open, Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge — beating Doherty in the semi-finals — and most satisfyingly, the British Open, thanks to a 9-8 victory over Hendry in an engrossing final.

It is those successes, appearances in four other finals and two semi-finals that have laid a bedrock of confidence that Doherty, who only lifted a trophy at the relatively low-key Macau Grand Prix, does not possess.



Higgins lines up a pot during the first session of the world championship final against Doherty

SPORT IN BRIEF

Hingis clinches first European clay title

TENNIS: After a sluggish opening set, Martina Hingis and Jana Novotna produced some remarkable tennis in the final of the Intersport Ladies Grand Prix in Hamburg yesterday (Alix Ramsay writes). Hingis eventually won her first European clay-court title 6-3, 7-5. After an exchange of breaks in the second set and the score at 3-2, the skies darkened ominously and officials decided to close the arena roof. That was the cue for dramatic improvement in the play. Invariably, however, the difference between the two players came down to the same thing — even playing at full stretch and way out of court, Hingis could get the ball back, while Novotna, having run herself into the ground to set up the winning chance, would land the ball on the wrong side of the line. "Even when I'm doing something right Martina is able to raise her game," Novotna said.

Criville holds off Doohan

MOTORCYCLING: Alex Criville, riding a Honda, held off a strong challenge from Michael Doohan in an attempt to strong home crowd and win the Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez yesterday. Criville slipped past Doohan with 17 of the 27 laps left. On the final lap Doohan closed to within inches but could not find a way past. Criville is now second in the world championship, six points behind Max Biaggi, who finished third. "It is just fantastic to win for the second time in a row in front of my fans," Criville said.

Faldo discards putter

GOLF: Nick Faldo ditched his putter in favour of a nine-iron in the final round of the Macau Open in an attempt to regain his form. Faldo, flown in along with Vijay Singh to raise the appeal of the event, finished seven shots behind the winner, Satoshi Oide, of Japan, at six over par. However, he did improve with the switch of clubs, as he putted with the lofted iron on six greens and sank three birdie putts. "It made me realise that my putter is not in sync with me," Faldo said. "At least that's something positive. I'll throw it away."

Enqvist topples Agassi

TENNIS: Thomas Enqvist, of Sweden, fought back to defeat Andre Agassi (right) 6-7, 7-6, 6-3 in the final of the BMW Open in Munich. Enqvist, the world No 21 who was seeded No 7, recovered during a third set in which the first four games went against service. "I played extremely well," Enqvist said. "I took a lot of chances and went for shots. I had a good day. I'm very happy."



Monarchs dethroned

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Despite leading 17-3 and 24-13, the England Monarchs suffered their fourth defeat in five NFL Europe games when they were beaten 25-24 by Amsterdam Admirals in Holland on Saturday (Richard Wetherell writes). A 22-yard touchdown reception by Jason Shelley with 2min 40sec remaining gave Amsterdam victory. The game had started brightly for the Monarchs and they took a 10-0 lead early in the second quarter.

Foster injured at party

ROWING: Tim Foster, the No 3 in the British World Cup four with Matthew Pinsent, Steve Redgrave and James Cracknell, is likely to be out of action for six weeks after damaging tendons in his hand at a party in Oxford on Saturday (Mike Rosewall writes). It appears that Foster's hand went through a window. Jürgen Grobler, the national coach, said: "This could mean that Foster misses two World Cups. It makes it difficult for us."

Brite performance

CYCLING: Team Brite riders filled the first five places in the 11.75-mile time-trial stage of the Travelwise Tour of Lancashire yesterday (Peter Bryan writes). True, Colin Sturgess, who was fifth-fastest, was a temporary guest rider for Adidas-SciCon, but Brite's domination was complete, with Rob Hayles winning the stage by 10sec from Matthew Illingworth in 22min 53sec. Jon Clay was third.

Badminton to go ahead

EQUESTRIANISM: The Badminton horse trials, Britain's premier three-day event, have been given the go-ahead for the scheduled start on Thursday after a detailed course inspection. Hue Thomas, the Badminton director, anxious to allay fears that heavy rain has put the event in jeopardy, said: "There have been a number of rumours that the trials are being cancelled. This is completely untrue."

Welcome to Marlboro Country.

FOR THE TOURISTS.

RESISTANCE CANCER

Warning
Medium
Nicotine

Marlboro Lights
6 mg Tar 0.5 mg Nicotine

Reputations rise and fall as King Of Kings eclipses odds-on favourite in 2,000 Guineas

Official view puts accent on substance before style

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE official handicappers on either side of the Irish Sea yesterday ran their slide rules over King Of Kings' majestic victory in the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket on Saturday — but admitted their conclusions owe more to the theory concerning lies, damned lies and statistics.

Attempting to place a classic winner into an historical pecking order is never easy and an assessor can gauge the performance of a horse only by the opposition. It has been beaten, rather than the style of the victory. By the terms of handicapping, King Of Kings' success appears nothing out of the ordinary.

The Aidan O'Brien-trained colt, who finished 1½ lengths ahead of Lend A Hand with three-quarters of a length back to the fast-finishing Border Arrow in third, is likely to receive an official rating of 121 or 122 — 2lb below that accorded to Entrepreneur last year and Mark Of Esteem 12 months earlier.

However, Dominic Gardner-Hill, the British Horseracing Board handicapper, stressed that the bare rating probably does not begin to tell the whole story. Having spoken to his Irish opposite number, Claran Kennelly, he said: "It is difficult to get the performance very high from the horses he has beaten. The first ten home were covered by only eight lengths."

"But what I don't want to do is knock King Of Kings. He won first time out and has the season ahead of him. It could be he is a top-class racehorse. Mr O'Brien doesn't get these things wrong, as we are beginning to learn. If he says the horse is top class, I believe

him. He is an outstanding prospect but on the day the performance means he cannot be quantified as an outstanding Guineas winner."

The style of his victory, which offered a glimpse of the sensational work King Of Kings has produced on the Ballydoyle gallops, suggests the official acclamation of his talents will follow in due course. "He would have won a five-furlong maiden after doing his first canter. He is a pure natural," O'Brien said.

The quality of O'Brien's string means Ireland's young training genius is able to gain a precise insight into the ability of his best horses and in a recent workout King Of Kings achieved a rating of 138. Even allowing for the differences between Ballydoyle handicapping and that of the official assessors, it puts King Of Kings close to the level achieved by the mighty Dancing Brave.

Where King Of Kings will reappear will not be determined for a week or so. The Irish 2,000 Guineas remains favourite but, significantly, O'Brien would not rule out a crack at the Derby yesterday. After flying back to Ireland on Saturday night before returning to Newmarket, O'Brien said: "It will be a week before we make any decision. The Irish 2,000 Guineas looks the most likely option, but the spacing of the races means the Derby looks okay."

The odds-on Xaar, under pressure half a mile out, never looked like troubling the winner. However, possibly the most significant performance for the future was that of Border Arrow, now 5-1 favourite for the Derby.



King Of Kings produces a telling burst of acceleration to take the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket on Saturday from Lend A Hand, right. Xaar, far left, finished only fourth.

Xaar diverted from the path to greatness

PERHAPS you do not read *Horse & Hound*. The magazine carries a weekly feature called "Horse of a Lifetime", and practically all of them are the same. The incorrigible rogue, the irredeemably flawed, the horse that everyone said would never do anything... and yet, and yet...

And yet there was something about the animal, something in the way he moved, the way he held his head, the way he responded to his handler. Something that whispered that he would make a champion. And so it proved...

Stories of this kind happen every day at every level in every corner of the kingdom of horse. But then so do the other kind. These do not make such delightful reading. The horse that everyone said was irredeemably flawed, and was.

Time, money, and a fortune in hope were invested in the animal, but all to no avail. And so to Newmarket on Saturday. "We had to be careful," John Magnier said. "He is the sort whose head could have gone either way."

There is the famous Egyptian papyrus of the god Anubis weighing a soul against a feather. Thus do you weigh your horse's hopes: a feather too far and they are gone forever. Equine talent of any kind is finely balanced: extreme talent, of the kind required to win a classic, is balanced on the blade of a razor.

Magnier is the head of the Coolmore Stud-based team that owns King Of Kings, who won the 2,000 Guineas so triumphantly on Saturday. It is clear from first sight that there is something singular about the big, burly bay. I watched him in the pre-parade ring, loosening up for the coming exertions. And he was twice as tall as Xaar.

Xaar — remember him? — was the Horse of the Century, French-trained, small, sleek, laid-back. Walking round the pre-parade ring with soft feline tread, utterly composed. If you had doubts about the temperament of your own horse, Xaar would frighten the life out of you. He was a picture of purposeful calm: the carefully-structured com-

Simon Barnes sees the latest 'horse of the century' fail to fulfil great expectations in classic circumstances

posure of Linford Christie before the final.

King Of Kings was huge. When horses are alarmed, upset, wary, they grow. They stand taller, they make themselves bigger. If you make a horse respond in such a way, you are said to have "put his back up". King Of Kings stood as tall as he could, and held his head up like a periscope.

He always does. Some had already written this off as indication of an incurable character flaw. "Just the make of the beast," said his jockey, Michael Kinane. But that was afterwards. In the pre-parade ring, standing about 20 hands and skittering and hopping. Being Irish and never having left the Curragh in

his life, he seemed to have come to England to give a solo equine performance of *Riverdance*.

A buck or two and a half-stand in the parade ring itself did not look like perfect big-match temperament either. He could have gone either way, Magnier said, in his training. And he could have gone either way on Saturday.

He could, but King Of Kings took the path less travelled by. The one that leads to greatness. Xaar, odds-on, had it all lost in the first furlong, a bumping, squeezing, headlong charge on ground far too soft for his comfort. Note: real champions act on any going against any opposition.

Xaar had looked all season as if he could only go one way: onwards and upwards. But like all potentially great horses — like all horses — he could have gone either way. And on Saturday, he went the wrong way.

And King Of Kings, galloping ever stronger, his head still high in the air, came thundering through. "You are almost afraid to commit yourself to saying that a horse is top

class," Magnier said. "A brilliant horse that could have gone either way, like — dare I say it? — like Nijinsky."

Er, what? Nijinsky won the 2,000 Guineas in 1970, also the Derby and the St Leger. One of the greatest ever, in short. King Of Kings is, as I write, considered unlikely to run in the Derby: more likely to stick at a mile. But we shall see.

The decision is largely up to his trainer, Aidan O'Brien, a man who is a dead ringer for Darbshire in the Jennings books. He is but 28, and those that deny him the word "genius" content themselves with a grudging "brilliant". This was his first English classic not, one suspects, his last. Even without King Of Kings, his Derby hand is more than interesting.

As for Xaar, a chance to redeem himself in the Derby, perhaps. Perhaps. I had gone to Newmarket to seek a legend, and I came away with a good story. Sometimes a story becomes a legend; but only sometimes.

EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

THE TIMES

WIN A VIP TRIP TO THE WORLD CUP '98 FINAL

Courtesy of MasterCard

Plus, this week, win tickets to Brazil v Scotland including VIP tickets to the opening ceremony

Today, *The Times* has teamed up with Channel 4's *Planet Football*, and official World Cup '98 sponsor MasterCard, to give readers the chance to win the prize of a lifetime. In 12 weeks the lucky winner and a partner could be off to the spectacular Stade de France, Paris, to see the two best football teams in the world.

Every Monday for the next six weeks we will be printing special *Planet Football* tokens. Collect any three and attach them to the entry form which will be published in *The Times* on Monday, May 18 with a competition question.

Our overall winner, chosen at random from all correct entries on Friday June 19, will win two places on the exclusive MasterCard World Cup Train. The day begins with a welcome reception at Waterloo International departure lounge before guests board the special train for an early afternoon departure to Paris. Unlimited refreshments will be available. Our winners will then board the RER shuttle to the Stade de France courtesy of MasterCard. MasterCard is a long term soccer sponsor and has supported the 1990 and 1994 World Cups, Euro '92 and Euro '96 as well as the UEFA Champions League.

WIN VIP TICKETS FOR BRAZIL V SCOTLAND

PLUS, every week for the next six weeks, Channel 4 will be giving readers the chance to see the footballing nations featured in *Planet Football* in action. Each week's telephone competition will give you the chance to see games ranging from Scotland's titan tussle against the Brazilians at Saint-Denis, Paris, to England's crucial Group G match against Romania in Toulouse. All the prizes include scheduled BA flights, car hire and four-star accommodation.

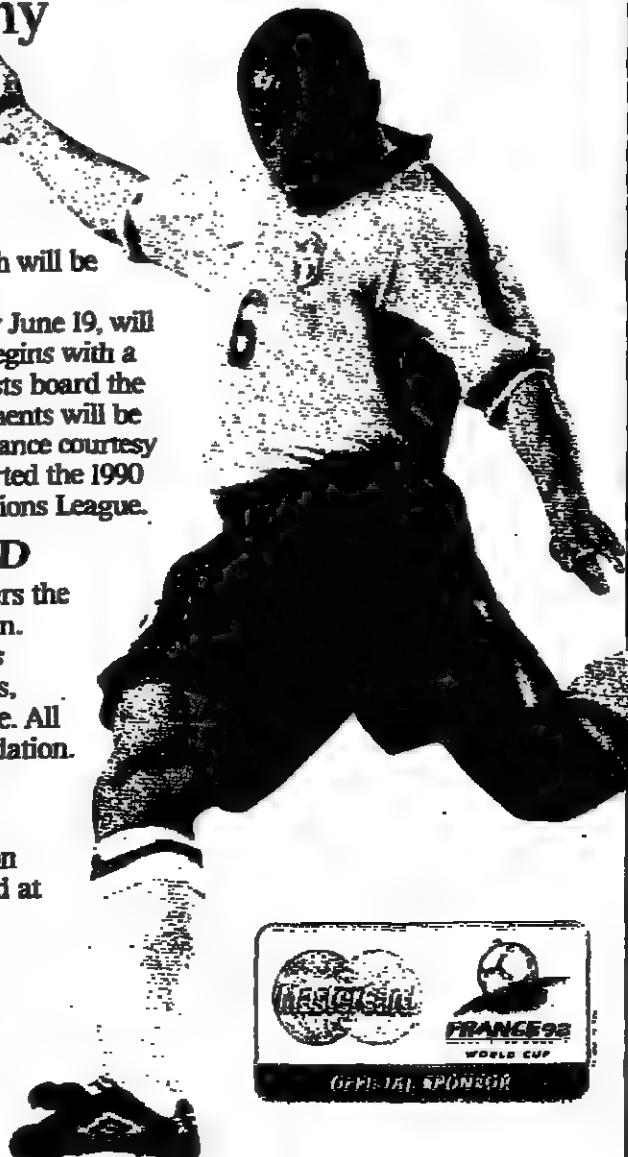
HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win two VIP tickets to the opening ceremony and reserved seats for Brazil v Scotland, simply answer the following question and call our *PLANET FOOTBALL* hotline on 0891 300 361. Calls charged at 50p per minute. Rol 1550 122 361 calls charged at 58p per minute. How many times has Brazil won the World Cup?



The lines are open until midnight on Thursday, May 7. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries and contacted by telephone on Monday May 11. Rules: Entrants must be over 18. No cash alternative. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

NEXT MONDAY: WIN TICKETS TO GERMANY v YUGOSLAVIA

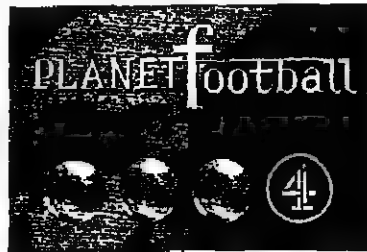


PLANET FOOTBALL: Tomorrow - The Brazilians

In the run-up to the World Cup '98, Channel 4's *Planet Football* will complete its comprehensive analysis of France '98's chief protagonists. Tomorrow, the programme casts a critical eye on Brazil: four-times winners, pre-tournament favourites and reigning World Champions.

On tomorrow's show, at its new time of 11.05pm, Steve Cram introduces extended highlights of last week's exciting clash at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium, where Brazil took on bitter local rivals and co-qualifiers Argentina. There is also an exclusive interview with veteran of Brazil's 1970 World Cup winning team, Carlos Alberto.

Can Romario and FIFA World Footballer of the Year, Ronaldo, shoot Brazil to further World Cup glory? *Planet Football* will give you the latest form guide, size up their chances and provide a unique insight into the hopes and fears of a country where football is one of life's most important passions.



CHANGING TIMES

Victoria Walker suffers a sore seat in a good cause and urges others to join in a summer of fun on wheels

Charity begins on a bicycle



They're off: the mass start at Clapham Common for the 21st London to Brighton cycle ride. Cheering crowds and friendly faces line the route, providing encouragement and refreshment

Right, then immediate left at the double mini roundabout, and hurrah, the signifying to me and my very sore seat that I only had one mile to go. It was at that point that I let out a whoop of delight, much to the disgust of my bicycling friends. But after successfully negotiating 49 miles, I felt it was justified.

Anyway, I think my cycling companions got off lightly as I only mentioned my bottom a dozen or so times. Although an accomplished complainer, my cycling prowess has been limited to fair weather romps through the countryside. But I have now taken part in the Rotary Club of Gravesend twelfth annual sponsored On Your Bike ride through north Kent, joining about 900 cyclists on a 50 and 25-mile ride for charity. Supporting The Ellenor Foundation, The Lions Hospice, Marie Curie Cancer Care and The PHAB Club, its success as a charity event is undisputed having to date raised over £200,000.

Charity bicycle rides are enormously popular and there is provision for the very keen to take part in a marathon ride every Sunday from April through to September. For Philip Jansseune, 33, and Stuart Johnson, 30, this is their third On Your Bike ride and Jansseune plans to complete the London Bikeathon and the London to Brighton cycle ride later this season.

Stephen Shaw, 45, took part in London's first Bikeathon in aid of Leukaemia Research last year. "The atmosphere was that of a big fun day out," he recalled. "There was a real air of festival." Shaw, a barrister at Lamb Chambers in London, and his team-mates will be forsaking their gowns and wigs in favour of Lycra for the second London Bikeathon, planned for June 7.

For Michelle Lineker, the London Bikeathon is also an important way of raising public awareness about Leukaemia Research. She and her husband, the former England footballer Gary, spent an agonising year after their first child, George, was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia shortly after his birth. After many months of painful and



Clowning around: but the reason, raising money, is serious

difficult treatment, George is now in remission. "I wanted to cycle last year," Michelle said, "but I was pregnant at the time and couldn't go. I am really looking forward to being able to take part this year."

FrameStore, the Soho post-production house, is also hoping to capitalise on its success at last year's Bikeathon. Blessed with a young and relatively fit workforce, John Starns, 35, head of VT, was able to mobilise a third of employees to take part. "Everybody did it together at quite a slow pace," he said.

The sum they raised for Leukaemia Research, more than £4,000, was the largest by a corporate team. "Most were generally fit and used to

a bit of exercise," Starns said of his colleagues. He hopes to enter similar numbers this year.

Paul Evans, 30, and Mar Dibb, 28, veterans of marathon cycle rides, regularly take part in the British Heart Foundation London to Brighton ride. In 1996 they sported full Victorian bathing suits on 30-year-old Triumph and Hercules bicycles. "We trained quite hard on the old bikes for at least six weeks before we went so that we could get used to them," Evans said. "It paid off because we were quicker on those old three-speed bikes than people going up hills on their 99-speed mountain bikes."

The 23-year-old London to



Brighton ride is the British Heart Foundation's biggest single annual event, raising more than £1.7 million in the past two years. After my success at negotiating the Rotary Club's On Your Bike ride through Kent, I have even managed to gather together some colleagues to represent The Times in this summer's London to Brighton ride. We will be easy to spot in our Team Times T-shirts and would welcome a cheer (1, for one, will need all the encouragement I can get).

Charity cycle rides are open to all ages with a generally good level of fitness. The Henry Compton School in Fulham is planning to enter a team of pupils in this year's London Bikeathon. Their headteacher, John Hayes, said: "I am delighted that my pupils are taking part and pleased that they are getting the opportunity to extend their PE skills and interests to the benefit of others." Under the guidance of Des Benjamin, head of physical education, the students have the opportunity to use the Bikeathon as a focal point through which to learn about leukaemia and the importance of leukaemia research, as well as to follow a training programme.

The Bikeathon coincides with National Bike Week, which runs from June 6 to 14, to celebrate the benefits of cycling as a mode of transport as well as a leisure activity.

Cycle ownership has doubled in Britain in the past decade. The Bicycle Association estimates that there are around 20 million bicycles in the country. With this summer's wide range of charity bike rides, it looks as though a good proportion of them will see some action.



They come and go in all shapes and sizes on charity rides, from the eccentric to a push-me-pull-you contraption

PHOTOGRAPHS: ANDRE CAMARA and TONY WHITE

CYCLING EVENTS

Sunday May 10, 1998
Sussex Fun Bike Ride for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Choice of 18 and 37-mile circular routes through the Sussex Downs starting near Lancing. Contact Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8QG (0171-201 2372)

Sunday May 31, 1998
Norwich 100, 100 and 50-mile routes, raising money for The Greenhouse Trust and Break. Details from Bike Events (01225 480130)

Sunday June 7, 1998
London Bikeathon. In aid of Leukaemia Research. Offers a choice of 13, 26 or 52 miles — and a choice of a scenic or historic route with the start/finish line in Battersea Park (0181-671 5500)

Basingstoke Big Wheel 4. In support of St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke. Starts and finishes at the Memorial Gardens in Basingstoke and offers a 25 or 50-mile route. Contact Big Wheel 4, St Michael's Hospice, Basil de Ferranti House, Aldermaston Road, RG24 9NB (01256 350050)

Sunday June 14, 1998
Birmingham to Oxford. Supporting Cancer Research Campaign and Action Research, a 75-mile route for Birmingham's biggest bike ride. A coach will ferry riders back for an additional fee. Contact Bike Events, above.
London to Oxford. In support of Oxfam, a 60-mile ride through the Chilterns to reach Oxford at the same time as the riders from Birmingham. Contact Bike Events, above.

Sunday June 21, 1998
London to Brighton. In aid of the British Heart Foundation, this is one of Britain's largest charity cycle rides. Numbers are restricted to 27,000. Contact British Heart Foundation Bike Rides, 14 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 4DH (0891 616077)

Sunday June 28, 1998
Weald & Downland Bike Ride. Cycle 50 or 25 miles from Haslemere in Surrey in support of Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability. A special train runs cyclists (and bikes) from London Waterloo with return in evening. Contact Bike Events, above.

Sunday July 5, 1998
New Forest Bike Ride. For the Rose Road Children's Appeal, catch the ferry from Southampton to Hythe and follow a course via Beaulieu, Lymington, and Brockenhurst. Contact Bike Events, above.

Sunday July 12, 1998
Manchester to Blackpool. The North West's biggest bike ride is now in its twelfth year. Riders are encouraged to support a charity of their choice through raising sponsorship and coaches are laid on to take riders to or from the event. Contact Bike Events, above.

Sunday July 26, 1998
London to Cambridge. A 60-mile ride in support of WWF going from North London via Essex and Hertfordshire. Contact WWF-UK, London to Cambridge Bike Ride, FREEPOST SCE729, Panda House, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1BR (01483 426369)

ADDRESSES

FOR information on charity cycle rides in Britain and some events in Europe: Bike Events, Box 75, Bath BA1 1BX. Tel: 01225 480130

For details of clubs in your area, cycle and third party insurance: British Cycling Federation, National Cycling Centre, Stuart Street, Greater Manchester M11 4DQ. Tel: 0161 230 2301

For information on clubs in your area and general advice: Cyclist Touring Club, Cotterell House, 69 Meadow, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3HS. Tel: 01483 417217

For information about the development of a National Cycle Network comprising signposted, safe cycle routes: Sustrans, 35 King Street, Bristol, Avon BS1 4DZ. Tel: 0117 629 0888

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

All too often, one fails to appreciate that a critical point in a hand has been reached, and that the next action may determine the fate of the contract. When the following hand arose in the 1998 Cap Gemini, the majority of the players in the West seat didn't realise that was the situation at trick two.

| Dealer East | East-West Game | IMPs |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| ♠ 10 ♥ A875 ♦ 10873 ♣ 10432 ♠ K886 ♥ KQ10848 ♦ QJ ♣ K | ♠ 10 ♥ A875 ♦ 10873 ♣ 10432 ♠ 32 ♥ - ♦ A854 ♣ AQJ9875 | ♠ A9754 ♥ J62 ♦ K62 ♣ 6 |

Contract: Five Clubs Doubled, by South. Lead: King of spades.

At several tables East opened a weak Two Spades, and South bounced to Five Clubs. Since the opening bid had virtually denied two aces, West typically doubled, and led the king of spades. Now it was up to West to decide on a course of action when his lead held the trick.

The natural play is to shift to a top heart, which seems neutral enough. But declarer ruffs in hand and lays down the ace of clubs, then ruffs a spade and ruffs a heart, and goes to dummy with the ten of clubs. Now the ace of hearts and a heart ruff concludes the elimination of the major suits. Ace of diamonds and a second diamond leaves West on play, forced to concede a ruff and discard, on which declarer's last diamond loser is discarded.

Notice that if West does

not lead or shift to a heart, declarer cannot arrange the elimination — there are not enough entries to dummy. However, at only one of the eight tables did a defender spot the trap. Michel Perron led the king of spades against Five Clubs doubled, and when Chénia contributed the nine, Perron carefully continued the suit to beat the contract.

Do you think that was just lucky? I think it was good play. Declarer was marked with two spades and at least seven clubs. If he had two hearts and A9 of diamonds, a heart was necessary before he could set up the diamonds for a discard. But a 2-2-2-7 shape would be unattractive for a jump to Five Clubs. His actual 2-0-4-7 was more likely, making avoiding the elimination the correct defence.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CHYPRE

- a. Scent
- b. Hepatic body fluid
- c. A tropical disease

LOESS

- a. Norwegian hake
- b. A Nepalese love song
- c. A geological layer

WALDSTEIN

- a. A historic gemstone
- b. Piano music
- c. Vessel for drinking toasts

CUDBEAR

- a. A cattlefood carrier
- b. Purple dye
- c. A child's teddy

Answers on page 45

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Club chess

The RAC in Pall Mall, London, has one of the most active chess circles in the London clubs community. This season the RAC tied for first place with the Athenaeum in the clubs championship while each year the RAC also organises a simultaneous display by a leading master against its members. Today I give two examples of play from recent RAC competitions.

White: Marsh

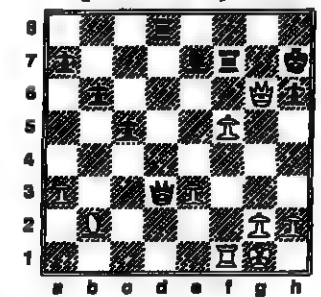
Black: Woodward

Royal Automobile Club 1998

Bird's Opening

| | | |
|----|------|-----------|
| 1 | f4 | cs |
| 2 | d3 | Nf6 |
| 3 | Nf3 | e6 |
| 4 | Bc2 | Bc7 |
| 5 | e3 | O-O |
| 6 | Bd3 | cs |
| 7 | O-O | Nc6 |
| 8 | a3 | h6 |
| 9 | Nc3 | b6 |
| 10 | Ne2 | Bc7 |
| 11 | Ng3 | Rb7 |
| 12 | Oe2 | Na5 |
| 13 | c4 | Nxb3 |
| 14 | Rae1 | dc4 |
| 15 | Bxc4 | Bd3 |
| 16 | Rd3 | Nxd2 |
| 17 | Rd1 | Nxd2+ |
| 18 | Qxd3 | Qc7 |
| 19 | Nh5 | Nh5 |
| 20 | Qxd5 | Rcd8 |
| 21 | Rf1 | Qd7 |
| 22 | Qg4 | g6 |
| 23 | h5 | Kf7 |
| 24 | Bxe6 | Qd3 |
| 25 | Bd7 | Rd7 |
| 26 | Qxg6 | checkmate |

Diagram of final position



White: William Harston
Black: Tony Buzan

Simultaneous display

Royal Automobile Club 1998

Sicilian Defence

| | | |
|----|-------|------|
| 1 | cs | cs |
| 2 | Nf3 | cs |
| 3 | d4 | csd4 |
| 4 | Qxd4 | Nc6 |
| 5 | Bc5 | Bc7 |
| 6 | Bxc5 | Bxc5 |
| 7 | Nc3 | Nf6 |
| 8 | Bg5 | e5 |
| 9 | Qd3 | Bc7 |
| 10 | O-O | Nf4 |
| 11 | Bxe7 | Qxe7 |
| 12 | Oe2 | O-O |
| 13 | h3 | Nf6 |
| 14 | Nf4 | g6 |
| 15 | g3 | Rf6 |
| 16 | Rf1 | as |
| 17 | a4 | Qe6 |
| 18 | Qd1 | as |
| 19 | Nd5 | Nd5 |
| 20 | Nxd5 | Rxd5 |
| 21 | Rxd5 | Qxd5 |
| 22 | Qc3 | Qxd5 |
| 23 | csd3 | cs |
| 24 | b3 | Kf7 |
| 25 | Rd3 | Rd6 |
| 26 | N3 | Bd3 |
| 27 | Rd3 | cs |
| 28 | axb5 | Rd5 |
| 29 | Kc2 | Rd4 |
| 30 | Rd3 | as |
| 31 | bxax4 | Rxd4 |

Draw agreed

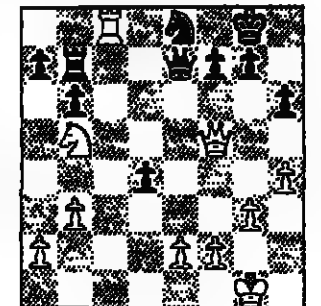
□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturdays.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Maric — Bojkovic, Belgrade, 1998.

Although material is level, the white forces are all much more active than their black counterparts. How did the game continue?



Solution on page 45

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

TOP-QUALITY SHIRTS FOR HALF PRICE



Plus save 25% on extra shirts

Today, *The Times* offers you the chance to receive 50 per cent off one of 24 stylish shirts carefully selected by Charles Tyrwhitt, the bespoke shirtmaker based in Jermyn Street, London. Our exclusive offer gives you a saving of £20 off the normal price of £40.

You can also buy as many extra top-quality shirts as you wish at the same time for £30 each, a saving of £10 per shirt. Only one order per person per household is permitted. The offer gives you a choice of six types of fabric, eight collar sizes and a single or double cuff. Keep this colour page for reference of all 24 shirts and an order form will be published on Wednesday.



HOW TO ORDER YOUR SHIRTS

Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven appearing until Saturday and send them with the completed order form to be published on Wednesday. Please enter the code for each shirt you require. Postage and packing is £2.50 per order in the UK. Postage to Europe is £5 and £10 for international orders. The offer is valid for orders received by Monday June 1, 1998.

CHARLES TYRWHITT SHIRT DESCRIPTIONS

TWO-FOLD COTTON POPLIN

This yarn is superfine and creates a fabric that has long been acknowledged by traditional shirtmakers for its cool feel, fine texture, day-long crispness and lasting durability. Choose from:

PLAIN POPLINS
 SPL-WBI White Poplin
 SPL-ORE Cream Poplin
 SPL-COR Cornflower Blue Poplin
 SPL-APR Apricot Poplin
PRINCE OF WALES CHECKS
 SPW-BLU Prince of Wales Blue
 SPW-PNK Prince of Wales Pink on Blue
 SPW-YEL Prince of Wales Yellow on Blue
TATTERSALL CHECK
 SPL-PNK Pink Tattersall
HUDSON STRIPES
 SPL-BLU Hudson Blue
BENGAL STRIPES
 SPL-BUR Bengal Burgundy
BLUE STRIPED RANGE
 SPL-BLU Director Blue
WELLINGTON RANGE
 SWE-YEL Wellington Yellow
 SWE-RED Wellington Red
GINGHAM
 SPL-BLU Gingham Blue

OXFORD COTTON RANGE

Oxford broadcloth is famous for its softness, flexibility and durability. It is exceptionally comfortable and can be worn as casual or formal wear.

END-ON-ENDS
 A term invented by the French (fin-a-fin). A fabric in which the white thread is interwoven with a coloured thread to produce a subtle textured effect. It retains the coolness and softness of plain two-fold poplin.
 SEN-BLU Sky Blue
 SEN-FRE French Blue
 SEN-LIL Lilac Check
 SEN-BLU Blue Check

HOUSTOOTH

Using only the finest two-fold Egyptian cotton, the houstooth is a fine weave of white and coloured yarn to create an ultra-fine check effect.
 HOU-BLU Houstooth Check
 HOU-LIL Houstooth Lilac

PINPOINT

Combines the qualities of two-fold cotton poplin with Oxford broadcloth, the lustre and superfine texture of poplin with the comfort and durability of Oxford. The finish of this pinpoint is exceptional and creates a silkiness of its own.
 SPL-LMN Lemon Pinpoint
 SPL-WBI White Pinpoint

HERRINGBONE

Herringbone is a traditional fabric that has recently come back into fashion. The shirt is full-colour from a distance, but with an intricate cross-cross weave close-up.
 SEN-BLU Blue Herringbone

CHARLES TYRWHITT
Makers of fine shirts
 JERMYN STREET
 LONDON

CHANGING TIMES

لقد كنا من الأصل

May Day Monday Jumbo Crossword Competition

ACROSS

- 1 Long-distance flier put up with restraining anger (8)
- 5 Arab, in backward era, displaying overweening (6,3)
- 10 My name may head the list for the post (9)
- 16 Fussy over salad — a new one from America (11)
- 17 To pin down artist in conversation, one may implement (30,9)
- 18 Caught in a pet, I found they're rather prickly (5)
- 19 Impossible to suggest whence examinees should derive inspiration (3,2,3,8)
- 20 Eccentric millionaire rejecting one source of fuel (7,3)
- 22 Training facility stopped short in error — bearing with it? (4,8)
- 24 Spicy sausage sadly returned — minute one (6)
- 25 Feeling envy in Paris, I may appear a parasite, almost (7)
- 27 Nearly reinvigorated, crunching certain fruit (9)
- 29 I look after property, having properly guaranteed fence (8,8)
- 31 Source of mineral — a lot reported (4)
- 32 Report on proposals not used by the FT (5,5)
- 33 Bug caught in part of Manchester during a party (5,6)
- 36 Young person's flat, tidy at first — one has space to go round with companions (5,6)
- 38 Fume endlessly, finding hidden camera equipment in Russian town (8)
- 40 Piece of music half-recalled at a nostalgic gathering (6)
- 43 Doctor cooking meat used some imagination (6)
- 44 Ruin TV broadcast about the French, being very hostile (8)
- 45 Board conceals motive, involving serious offence (11)
- 47 Went round to get hold of missing years, and made copies (11)
- 49 Concerned about current changes (10)
- 51 Heard where there's fighting (4)
- 53 In which the sum of the parts is usually greater than the whole (8,8)
- 55 One using 49 therapy, slaving at modification (9)
- 58 Artist offered thanks, if brought over a liqueur (7)
- 59 Cheerful, taking it on the chin (6)
- 60 Broken clutch plate? (9,3)
- 63 Action taken, on reflection, is a matter of pride (4,6)
- 64 Is one driven to make a bundle out of corny material? (7,9)
- 67 Avoid repetition in trifling complaint about Scots town (5)
- 68 Not a regular figure, do I appear odd taking over end of bar? (9)
- 69 Accompanying candidate is 70? Make a final check (7,4)
- 70 In a row, to do with article by socialist (2,3,4)
- 71 Silly hobby, cutting out middles in change, in juvenile manner (8)
- 72 Making a false assumption (8)

DOWN

- 1 W1 completely prudent, mostly opposing moral lapse (9)
- 2 Great success with chapter in narrative sent up (5)
- 3 Conserve trade, going over transport problem (7,3)
- 4 One more player not selected (7)
- 5 Pack of reds? (6,5)
- 7 Silent about aiming for change (6)
- 8 Did one have a spell in Birmingham venue? Liar! (11)
- 9 Hemmed in by girl whose top's slipped down (4)
- 10 It may cause corrosion — about to come in to help, if that's right (9)
- 11 Disc-jockey briefly expanded part of formal wardrobe (6,6)
- 12 It's an American! (11,5)
- 13 It's jargon — thus, see logic-chopping about nothing (11)
- 14 Old recording I criticise severely — it's about the embryo (8)
- 15 Yearly celebration — suggested timing, ten to two? (10)
- 21 Badgering hospital dept, supporting fool with external injury (10)
- 23 Range could be twice as nice, with added depth (9)
- 26 Neglecting the usual run of winter sport (3,5)
- 28 Catch one's breath, and fill a space in the light? (6)
- 30 Combining forces, wandering about to catch sheep (8)
- 31 Perhaps passenger has seen game with no score (4,4)
- 34 Where rings may be stored while one's away (9,7)
- 35 Parameters settled, built bookshelves for encyclopaedias? (5,2,9)
- 37 Great description of traditional Times editorialist (10)
- 39 Broadcasting — it's all about atmosphere (2,3,3)
- 41 French inn imports popular tropical fruit (9)
- 42 Attack when ships appear (6)
- 46 She may be reunited with family, taking second husband (4,8)
- 48 Orbiting mass with zero albedo, perhaps to be revealed (4,2,5)
- 49 Studying destiny of holy caste, go astray (11)
- 50 Should one turn up the bass, doing the twist? (4,7)
- 52 Lose enough pounds for the fight, or a bit extra (10)
- 54 Looking back on traditional coat of arms (9)
- 56 A gem — brilliant! Yes, I greet that wildly (6,3)
- 57 Rich American's neglected part of Shakespeare's work (8)
- 61 Perhaps fence in black dog, after initial escape (7)
- 62 Hero appeared here in legend — by diving into rising foaming water? (6)
- 65 Old couple, one called Mark (5)
- 66 Basil — maybe the man right to have taken over Sybil's heart? (4)

MAY DAY JUMBO CROSSWORD 164

Prizes of £100 will be given for the first six correct solutions opened on Monday, May 18, 1998. Entries should be sent to: May Day Jumbo Crossword (164), The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published in *Weekend* on Saturday, May 23

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ POSTCODE _____

Times Two May Day crossword

There is no prize for this crossword. The solution will be published on Monday, May 11

ACROSS

- 1 Fabled rich city (8)
- 5 Of bishop's see (8)
- 10 Of film (9)
- 16 Magnification (11)
- 17 Be suspicious (5,1,3)
- 18 Panic (5)
- 19 Automatically assuming (6,3,7)
- 20 Section of business (10)
- 22 Huge Jurassic herbivore (12)
- 24 Christie's Belgian detective (6)
- 25 Pronounces a god (7)
- 27 One that invigorates (9)
- 29 You unhelpful person! (6,3,7)
- 31 Conduit (4)
- 32 Match between neighbours (5,5)
- 33 Ingredient (11)
- 36 Justification (6,5)
- 38 Those ruled by king (8)
- 40 Smooth little stone (6)
- 43 Satisfy (6)
- 44 Squash together (8)
- 45 Stormy (11)
- 47 Taken back by owner (11)
- 49 Provision of fresh weapons (10)
- 51 (Cloud) race along (4)
- 53 Lament what can't be changed (3,4,5,4)
- 55 Drug stupor: romantic (anag.) (9)
- 58 One from eg Togo, Mali (7)
- 59 In gentle way (6)
- 60 That is to say (2,5,5)
- 63 One appreciating late life (10)
- 64 Exponent to base e (7,9)
- 67 Karl Friedrich — mathematician (5)
- 68 Spotty dog (9)
- 69 Left vague (11)
- 70 Plant as word: see dew dry (anag.) (5,4)
- 71 Leonardo smiling portrait (4,4)
- 72 Ulan Bator its capital (8)

DOWN

- 1 With chance of being MP (9)
- 2 Dr Who enemy (5)
- 3 Straining at leash (6,3,2)
- 4 Fr. officer 1894 *Affaire* (7)
- 6 Broken off, into (11)
- 7 Gambling house (6)
- 8 One opening many doors (8,3)
- 9 Dickens's *Little girl* (4)
- 10 Walrus companion (*Alice*) (9)
- 11 Nitty-gritty (4,3,5)
- 12 European compact, 1992 (10,6)
- 13 Eg Desdemona actress (11)
- 14 Unconscious (8)
- 15 Backs-to-wall fights (9,7)
- 21 Skilled (10)
- 23 Mark as too expensive (9)
- 26 Scot. island, its patterned knickerwear (4,4)
- 28 Poor-quality (material) (6)
- 30 Tense: laid importance on (8)
- 31 Sweat (8)
- 34 Every second count! (3,1,6,2,4)
- 35 Not all have same aptitudes (6,3,7)
- 37 Canvas shoe (10)
- 39 Husband to Porcia (*M of V*) (8)
- 41 With more, irregular, patches (9)
- 42 One lamenting, more eager (6)
- 46 It carries M4 over estuary (6,6)
- 48 Art of painting likeness (11)
- 49 Tit-for-tat action (11)
- 50 Creating scene (6,1,4)
- 52 Sending on (10)
- 54 One half-liquid (4,5)
- 56 Press, TV, etc (4,5)
- 57 Holy person (3,2,3)
- 61 C16 Spanish painter (2,5)
- 62 Underground passage (6)
- 65 Warble: rolled r sound (5)
- 66 Part of hand: prize (4)

Court of Appeal

Time runs from date of entry

Hillingdon London Borough Council v ARC Ltd

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment April 7]
A claim for compensation for compulsory purchase resulting from the entry by an acquiring authority on land pursuant to section 11 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 was subject to the limitation period laid down in section 9 of the Limitation Act 1980 notwithstanding that the amount of compensation payable had not been agreed or determined by the Lands Tribunal.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by ARC Ltd from a declaration on an originating summons of Mr Stanley Burton, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge (*The Times* June 25, 1997; [1998] 1 WLR 174), that ARC's claim for the compensation arising from the compulsory purchase in 1982 by Hillingdon London Borough Council of land at Viewley was statute barred.

Section 9 of the Limitation Act 1980 provides: "(1) An action to recover any sum recoverable by virtue of any enactment shall not be brought after the expiration of six years from the date on which the cause of action accrued."

Mr Neil King for ARC; Mr

Joseph Harper, QC, for the council.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER said that the judge found that ARC's cause of action arose when the council had entered on and taken possession of the land on April 26, 1982, that being the day when ARC first had a right to compensation.

He had held that the compensation was "a sum recoverable by virtue of any enactment" irrespective of whether the compensation had yet been quantified by agreement or by the Lands Tribunal and that on that basis the limitation period had expired in 1988.

While it was not essential to his decision, the judge went on to hold that a reference to the Lands Tribunal was "an action to recover" compensation for the purposes of section 9(1) of the 1980 Act.

Relying on *Turner v Midland Railway Co* ([1911] 1 KB 832, *Royal Bank of Scotland plc v Clydebank District Council* (1992) SLT 359 and *Attorney General v City Council of Halesowen* (*The Times* November 14, 1997; [1998] 1 All ER 33), Mr King submitted that the position clearly was that the cause of action did not arise unless or until the compensation was quantified by the Lands Tribunal.

However, a number of authorities made it clear that for the purposes of limitation a cause of action might accrue for "any sum

recoverable by virtue of any enactment" although that sum had yet to be quantified by some process of agreement or adjudication: see *Pepler v Railway Executive* ([1948] 1 All ER 559; *China v Harrow Urban District Council* ([1954] 1 QB 78) and *Central Electricity Board v Halifax Corporation* ([1963] AC 788).

Adopting the approach of Lord Goddard, Lord Chief Justice, in *West Riding County Council v Huddersfield Corporation* ([1957] 1 QB 540, 546) the realties of the position were that the right to compensation which arose as at the date of entry of the council as acquiring authority was an immediate right which, in the absence of any agreement could only be enforced at the suit of the claimant by initiating proceedings to quantify the sum due.

That could only be done by the Lands Tribunal, just as it had to be done by an arbitrator in other statutory contexts. While the exercise might be simply one of quantification, it was in reality an action to recover a sum of money, namely the amount of the compensation due as assessed by the Lands Tribunal.

The judge was right to treat the passages from the judgments in the *Turner* case cited by Mr King as being limited to the context in which they arose. Moreover neither the *Clydebank* case nor

Manchester assisted ARC's case. It was unnecessary for the court to decide whether it was sufficient for a claimant to refer the question of compensation to the Lands Tribunal within six years of his claim arising in order to prevent his claim becoming statute barred, or whether within that time he had to issue a writ in the High Court. That was because ARC had taken neither step.

However, for the purposes of future guidance it was appropriate to deal with the matter.

The Lands Tribunal was a court of law within the meaning of section 38 of the 1980 Act. It had judicial rather than essentially administrative characteristics.

It was appropriate to regard a reference to the tribunal by a claimant for the purposes of quantifying a question of disputed compensation as an action to recover that compensation within the meaning of section 9(1).

The alternative was to regard it as no more than a procedural step required in order to quantify the sum to be recovered by an action before an ordinary court of law. That was both cumbersome and unnecessary.

Lord Justice Nourse gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Mummery agreed.

Solicitors: Lawrence Tuckers, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Blackstone Franks Investment Management Ltd v Robertson

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment April 7]
Commissions due to a self-employed person under a contract of services that became payable after termination of the contract were payments of "wages" under section 7 of the Wages Act 1986. However, section 5(6) of that Act entitled the employer to deduct from such wages amounts of advance commission already paid to the worker.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by James Ritchie Robertson from the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Holland, Mrs M. E. Sunderland and Ms B. Switzer) (*The Times* November 12, 1996) that had allowed an appeal by Blackstone Franks Investment Management Ltd from an order of a Liverpool industrial tribunal in respect of unauthorised deduction of wages contrary to section 1 of the 1986 Act.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal had refused to dismiss Mr Robertson's application to the industrial tribunal in its entirety, but had reduced the amount to be paid to him from £14,126 to £3,626.

Mr Allen Dyer for Mr Robertson; Mr Robin Howard for Blackstone Franks.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that in January 1994 Mr Robertson had entered into a contract of services with Blackstone Franks as a self-employed person being entitled to commission on business completed by him.

Blackstone made an advance against future commission to Mr Robertson of £10,500. In October 1994 Blackstone terminated the contract and Mr Robertson applied to the industrial tribunal for, inter alia, payment of outstanding commissions.

The industrial tribunal held that the commissions that Mr Robertson was entitled to be paid were "wages" as defined by section 7 of the 1986 Act and that by refusing to pay him sums totalling £14,126 Blackstone had made unauthorised deductions contrary to section 1(1), they not being entitled to make any deductions for the outstanding debt which they considered Mr Robertson owed to them in respect of advance commission.

On Blackstone's appeal, the Employment Appeal Tribunal agreed that the commissions payable after termination of Mr Robertson's contract fell within the definition of "wages" but held that the £10,500 advance could be offset against Mr Robertson's outstanding entitlement at £3,626.

It was common ground that if the commissions due were not wages the tribunal had no jurisdiction to hear Mr Robertson's claim. Section 7(1) defined "wages" as "any sums payable to the worker by his employer... including (a) any fee, bonus, commission, holiday pay or other emolument..." Mr Robertson was a "worker" for the purposes of the Act: see section 8(1). The submission for Blackstone that the commissions were not wages but post-termination payments payable in connection with the termination of Mr Robertson's contract, not in

connection with his employment and not payable to him in his capacity as a worker, was rejected. The submission was inconsistent with the wide definition of "wages" in section 7, as construed by the House of Lords in *Delaney v Staples* ([1991] 1 AC 687).

The advance commission. Section 5(6) of the 1986 Act provided that "an employer shall not under sub-section 4(a) or (b) be ordered... to repay to a worker any amount in respect of a deduction or payment... in so far as it appears to the tribunal that he had already paid or repaid any such amount to the worker."

That provision had to be viewed in the following context: Sections 1 to 4 of the Act were concerned with restrictions on unauthorised deductions from wages. Sections 5 and 6 defined the jurisdiction and powers of industrial tribunals. It was a wide jurisdiction.

Section 5(6) was a prohibition against the tribunal making an order for payment to a worker of an amount the employer had already paid. The prohibition affected the tribunal's powers as at the date when it made an order that

the employer should pay an amount of money to the worker. It had to consider the circumstances existing at the day of the order: the question on that day was: has the employer "already paid" any amount to the worker "in respect of a deduction?"

The contention for Mr Robertson that section 5(6) only applied where the employer had made a payment to a worker after he had made an unauthorised deduction had to be rejected.

On its ordinary and natural meaning the language of the subsection covered the payment of the advance commission by Blackstone to Mr Robertson in 1994, ahead of the deduction of commission which Blackstone had already paid to Mr Robertson in the form of the £10,500 advance commission.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Potter agreed.

Solicitors: Ms Anne-Marie Harcourt, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Court of Appeal

Commissions due are wages

Justices cannot retrospectively refuse to accept plea

Regina v Herefordshire Youth Court, Ex parte J

Before Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Brian Smedley

[Judgment April 22]

Where a defendant appeared in a youth court represented by a solicitor, was properly identified, understood the charge put, and entered a plea of guilty, the justices did not have the power subsequently to refuse to accept that plea and determine that the proceedings had been void from the beginning.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when granting the application of J for judicial review of the decision of Herefordshire Justices on August 4, 1997 to declare that the applicant's guilty plea entered on July 22, 1997 was void and to commit the case to the crown court for trial.

On July 22, 1997 the applicant attended Herefordshire Youth Court represented by a solicitor, where the charge of indecent assault contrary to section 14(1) of the Sexual Offences Act 1956, on a girl aged three was put, to which the applicant pleaded guilty.

The prosecution outlined the facts of the case and confirmed that the applicant had no previous convictions and the applicant's solicitor requested an adjournment for a pre-sentence report.

The court clerk then raised the issue of whether the offence should be considered a grave crime thereby falling to be considered under the provisions of section 53 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, regarding commitment to the crown court for trial.

On August 4, 1997 the court clerk, referring to *R v Inner London Youth Court, Ex parte Director of Public Prosecutions* (*The Times* April 4, 1996) stated that the proper procedure for dealing with a grave crime had not been followed and in accordance with *R v West* ([1964] 1 QB 15), the proceedings in July were void.

The justices agreed that the plea entered was void, accepted the prosecution's application that the case was suitable only for trial at the crown court and adjourned the case for committal proceedings.

Mr Kerry Barker for the applicant; Mr William Rickaby for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN stated that section 25(2) of the Magistrates' Court Act 1980 empowered justices to switch from a summary trial to considering committal proceedings only in a case where a trial in the narrow

sense of determining guilt or innocence on the evidence was proceeding: see *R v Dudley Justices, Ex parte Giltard* ([1986] 1 AC 442).

In the instant case there was no trial proceeding as there had been a plea of guilty.

Mr Kerry submitted that in the youth court, unless representations were made to the contrary, justices would proceed automatically by way of summary trial, so the onus was on the crown clerk and the prosecutor to consider the gravity of the offence and draw it to the attention of the court prior to the taking of a plea.

The case of *R v West* ([1964] 1 QB 15) was distinguished as there the justices had purported to try summarily an offence which was triable only on indictment, so the proceedings were inevitably deemed a nullity.

As the applicant in the instant case was represented and had entered a guilty plea which was not equivocal, the justices had no power other than to continue the case and to determine sentence.

Mr Justice Smedley agreed.

Solicitors: Humphreys & Symonds, Hereford; Crown Prosecution Service, Hereford.

School fees can be reasonable domestic need

In re Rayatt

Before Mr Michael Hart, QC

[Judgment April 8]

There was no rule of law to the effect that avoidable expenditure on the education of children, including private school fees, could not constitute a reasonable domestic need for the purposes of section 31(2) of the Inheritance Act 1986.

Reasonable domestic need was an issue of fact and each case had to be examined by reference to its individual circumstances.

Mr Michael Hart, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division, so held when allowing the appeal of Devinder Singh Rayatt, a bankrupt, from the order of Mr Registrar James dated September 25, 1997 dismissing his application for the discharge of an income payments order made by section 31(2) of the 1986 Act on June 6.

His Lordship granted the trustee in bankruptcy leave to appeal.

Section 31(2) of the 1986 Act provides: "(2) The court shall not make an income payments order the effect of which would be to reduce the income of the bankrupt below what appears to the court to be necessary for meeting the reasonable domestic needs of the bankrupt and his family."

Mr Rayatt in person; Mr Alan Walters for the trustee in bankruptcy.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the applicant had been made bankrupt on his own petition on April 24, 1997. His statement of affairs showed nil assets and liabilities of some £168,000, all to lending institutions, as a result of unsuccessful property investment.

On May 8, 1997 Mr Rayatt, who remained employed by the London Borough of Lambeth as a senior civil engineer, discussed with a representative of the Official Receiver what sum he could afford to pay under an income payments order and was persuaded to sign a form of consent to the making of such an order in the monthly sum of £450, which Mr Rayatt believed he could afford if all three of his children were taken out of their fee-paying schools.

However, when he broke that news to his children that same evening, the reaction of his eldest daughter caused him to fear for her educational and psychological welfare.

By letter to the Official Receiver dated May 8, Mr Rayatt withdrew his consent to the making of an income payments order in the

terms set out above. The Official Receiver replied by letter dated May 27: "Unfortunately, fees for children in private education do not form part of the allowable expenses."

His Lordship said that the question on appeal was whether the particular expenditure by the bankrupt and his wife fell within the compass of the words "reasonable domestic needs of the bankrupt and his family".

The registrar had decided that he could not because private education could never, as a matter of general principle, fall within those words.

No such general proposition could be spelled out of the test laid down by statute. Whether particular expenditure could be described as necessary to meet the reasonable domestic needs of the bankrupt or his family must depend on an examination of all the circumstances of the individual case.

Clearly some expenditure in relation to the education of a child could be said to be both necessary and domestic. Even in the state system, parents could be expected to defray some expenses, for example the costs of travel to school, uniforms, where worn, dinner money, school trips, and so on.

How much such expenditure could be described as meeting a reasonable domestic need was a subjective matter for the tribunal, highly dependent on the particular facts which had given rise to it.

In this case the registrar had accepted evidence, in the form of a letter from the headmistress of the daughter's school that Mr Rayatt's eldest daughter would be seriously disadvantaged were she to be moved from her present school at that juncture, but he had considered it to be irrelevant given the general rule against payment for private education which he invoked.

His Lordship did not think that any such rule existed. The letter established beyond doubt that the continuation of that child's education at least until the completion of her GCSE course was a reasonable domestic need.

The appeal should be allowed and the existing income payments order discharged.

The trustee in bankruptcy remained free to make a fresh application for an order after the eldest daughter's current GCSE courses had finished, although in his Lordship's opinion it was by no means obvious that an order in the terms of the present order would become appropriate.

Solicitors: Royds Treadwell.

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CORPORATE PROFILE: 3i

THE FACTS

Total return: £415.5 million (year to March 31, 1997)
Net Asset Value: 518p (at September 30, 1997)
Overview: The UK's longest established provider of venture capital to small and medium-sized businesses, investing more than £8 billion in over 12,000 businesses since 1945. Investments in about 3,000 companies in the UK, Offices in Germany, France, Spain and Italy.

THE BOARD

The chief executive of 3i is Brian Larcombe, 44, who succeeded Ewen Macpherson in July 1997. He joined 3i in 1974, rising to take charge of finance and guide 3i through its flotation in 1994. He is past chairman of the British Venture Capital Association.

The 3i chairman, Sir George Russell, 62, is a boardroom veteran, chairing the Independent Television Commission (ITC) from 1990 to 1996. He is chairman of Camelot, the National Lottery operator, and chairs the Northern Development Corporation. He is a director of Northern Rock Building Society, Taylor Woodrow and Alcan Aluminium.

Executive directors include Michael Queen, who succeeded Larcombe as finance director in last July's boardroom reshuffle. Long-serving non-executives include John Melbourn, deputy chairman, recently retired from the board of National Westminster Bank. He is chairman of The Marchmont Group and a director of Tesco and Standard Bank. Lord Camoys, former deputy chairman of Sotheby's Holdings, is a director of Perpetual, British Grolux and The Royal Collection Trust. William Govett, who bows out in July, is a director of various investment trusts, including Govett Oriental, and of Halifax Financial Services.

Newcomers, appointed last July, include Baroness Hogg, head of the Prime Minister's policy unit from 1990 to 1995. She is a director of GKN, National Provident Institution and The Energy Group, and is newly appointed to the board of the Scottish Eastern Investment Trust.

Also new to the board is Dr John Forrest, chairman of Brewton Group and vice-president of The Royal Academy of Engineering.

Hardly a corner of Britain — and increasingly Europe — has escaped the tentacles of 3i. Half a century of backing hopeful entrepreneurs has produced such famous names as British Caledonian and Compass, not to mention Phileas Fogg crisps. Bond Helicopters flew on 3i money. Isosceles crashed in spite of it.

With its roots stretching back to the 1940s, 3i has been in a league of its own for years, commanding the field with its selective cash handouts. Today's league tables tell a different story. 3i remains way out in front in terms of sheer volume, with 63 deals worth £439 million in 1997, according to *Acquisitions Monthly*, which ranks leading equity arrangers in UK buyouts. It accounts for about a fifth of UK venture capital investment.

But there is no shortage of pretenders to the crown. NatWest Equity Partners, second to 3i with 16 deals worth £237 million last year, is coming up fast. Started by a 3i alumnus, it seems set to give 3i a run for its money. Eleven handled deals worth £437 million last year, but only six of them, rather than 63. Others to watch include Electra Fleming, Candover Investments, CVC Capital Partners, Philwren Ventures and Alchemy Partners.

Faced with this crowded canvas, 3i can ill afford to rest easy. It is way out in front geographically, with 18 regional UK offices stretching from Southampton to Aberdeen. Inroads are being made in mainland Europe and South-East Asia. 3i is investing heavily in internal communications, allowing its 750 employees to share information about clients and markets at the push of a button.

A lucrative spin-off lies in managing unlisted funds on behalf of other investors. Unquoted funds under management increased from £500 million in £1.4 billion last year. According to Cazenove & Co, fee income and interest on these funds is probably worth an extra 40p on the value of each 3i share.

While the UK is highly developed as a venture capital market, it is far from saturated. 3i has investments in about 3,000 companies, and has identified a further 30,000 well-run private companies in which it would like to hold investments. New companies are being created all the time.



British Caledonian netted £100 million for 3i, whose capital investment also helped Waterstone's and Laura Ashley; Brian Larcombe, top, chief executive, who saw 3i through its flotation in 1994; and his predecessor Ewen Macpherson, flanked by the chairman, Sir George Russell, right

bringing fresh opportunities. This said, mainland Europe looks increasingly tempting.

Management buyouts (MBOs) and buy-ins (MBIs) were largely unknown on the Continent until four or five years ago, and activity is gathering pace. Germany has about 220,000 medium-sized companies in private hands. Many of the founders are looking to sell out but hate the idea of selling to foreigners. MBOs provide a means of "keeping it in the family".

Germany aside, 3i has offices in France, Spain and Italy, and has 100 people working on the ground. An office has opened in Singapore to investigate opportunities in the region.

Brian Larcombe, the chief executive, is eager to grow 3i's technology portfolio. About 25 per cent of new investments are in technology businesses. Of 21 quoted biotechnology

companies in the UK, 3i started 13.

3i traces its origins to the closing months of the Second World War, when two new institutions were set up with a view to channeling capital into industrial growth. In 1929 a committee under the chair-

manship of Lord Macmillan identified a gap — the "Macmillan gap" — in the financing of small and medium-sized companies.

The Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation (ICFC) was created to bridge the gap, backed by the Bank of

England and major clearing banks. The Finance Corporation for Industry (FCI) was to channel larger sums to industrial sectors — mainly the steel industry, as it turned out. In 1973 the pair came together to form Finance For Industry (FFI).

Nine years later, Wolf Olin, the design company, was asked to come up with a new name altogether. "Investors in Industry" led to the more radical "3i", which moved onto letterheads in the summer of 1983.

There is a long roll-call of 3i investments, successful or otherwise. In 1967 ICFC's office in Glasgow provided development capital to Caledonian Airways, an operator of charter flights, which merged with British United Airways two years later to form British Caledonian (BCal). Regular calls for capital left ICFC holding 47 per cent of the equity, but it all worked out in

1987, when British Airways bought BCal, netting 3i just over £100 million.

If this was 3i's largest-ever profit, its biggest loss was swift in following. The group was a backer to Isosceles, the vehicle created by SG Warburg (as it then was) to mount a contested £2.4 billion management buy-in of the Gateway supermarket chain. The deal went wrong and 3i had to write-off £28 million in mezzanine debt and £45 million of equity.

3i held equity in Frizell, the insurance group, for nearly 40 years: selling out for more than £40 million in 1992. Oxford Instruments, started in the 1950s by Sir Martin Wood, a research engineer in Oxford, expanded strongly after a cash injection by ICFC. Bond Helicopters built a thriving business supplying North Sea oilfields. Tim Waterstone set up his chain of bookshops

with 3i backing. 3i put up some of the money behind Derwent Valley Foods, maker of Phileas Fogg snacks, which started with a single factory in 1983. After ten years, sales exceeded £20 million. Derwent Valley was sold to United Biscuits for £24 million.

Other recipients of 3i investment capital include Alders, Forte, Geest, Laura Ashley, LDV (formerly Leyland Daf Vans), MORI, Prontaprint Group, Tibbett & Britten, Traveller's Fare and Wickes.

3i came to the market in July 1994 in a £1.6 billion flotation, taking its place in the FTSE 100 index soon afterwards. It is classified as an investment trust — for tax reasons — leading to some confusion among analysts. 3i's exposure to unquoted companies makes it harder to value than "true" investment trusts, with their holdings in listed shares.

It has not been a totally smooth ride. 3i closed five regional offices in 1992 and saw staff numbers all but halve. Exposure to smaller unquoted companies makes 3i vulnerable to market swings. As for the management, 3i is often described as surprisingly conservative. Some say it is just plain dull.

3i's external ethical expression is mainly limited to environmental matters, earning it a modest score from Integrity Works, our independent consultant. As for boardroom pay, Crisp Consulting considers 3i to run a tight ship. Ewen Macpherson realised gains of £1.7 million on share options in the year to March 31, 1997, but most of it was attributable to prior years. His total pay was £944,000, compared with a Crisp ideal of £713,000. The number of non-executives is within limit and they are paid less than normal.

JON ASHWORTH

OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression... 5/10
Fat-cat quotient... 10/10
Financial record... 6/10
Share performance... 7/10
Attitude to employees... 8/10
Strength of brand... 10/10
Innovation... 7/10
Annual report... 6/10
City star rating... 7/10
Future prospects... 8/10
Total... 70/100
Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The Fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay packages score highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

Granada's resort hotels for Paramount at £35m

By DOMINIC WALSH

THE asset sale initiated by Granada in the wake of its £3.9 billion takeover of Forte is set to continue with the sale of three of its biggest and most famous provincial hotels for about £35 million.

Industry sources say that the media and leisure group is close to signing a deal with Paramount Hotel Group, a small Leeds company in which Alchemy Partners, the venture capital group headed by Jon Moulton, is preparing to take a controlling stake.

The hotels, the five-star Imperial in Torquay, which has 167 rooms, and two four-star properties, the Majestic in Harrogate (150 rooms) and the Imperial in Blackpool (183 rooms), are part of the Forte Heritage chain and have a combined asking price of £37.5 million.

They are among a package of 23 Forte hotels in the UK put up for sale through Christie & Co, the property agent, with a combined price of about £250 million.

Paramount was set up three years ago by Michael Purtil, a former managing director of Principal Hotels, with backing from Schroder Ventures, which in turn sold out last year to Advance Synergy Bhd



Police guard the Imperial, Blackpool, during a party conference

FORTE DISPOSALS

| Asset | Book value | Sale Price | Purchaser |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Hyde Park Hotel | £70.8m | £50m (est) | Mandarin Oriental |
| Westbury Hotel | £67m | £50m (est) | Chelwood |
| Plaza Athlete, Paris | £4.2m | £1.1m (est) | ICC International |
| Brown's Hotel, London | £20m | £45m | PA Holdings |
| George V, Paris | £28.4m | £45m | Raffles Holdings |
| Sandy Lane | £26.5m | £104m | Prince Alwaleed |
| Savoy (Rings) | £281m | £281m | Shakespeare Hotels |
| French motorway access | £45m | £45m | Autogrill |
| Widewater Beach | £28.5m | £47.5m | Investcorp |
| Alpha Airport (Spain) | £44.4m | £52.4m | Mohamed Al Fayed |
| Wilton Hotel | £11.1m | £17.7m | Regal Hotel Group |
| Agio Forte (est. 1990) | £2m | £5m | ENI |
| Sundry disposals | £29m | £29m | Various |
| TOTAL | £1147.5m | £1497.7m | |

* Estimated Source: The Times/CSPB

(ASB), a Malaysian conglomerate listed in Kuala Lumpur. ASB, whose interests include banking, property and manufacturing, has an 87.3 per cent

and has given Mr Purtil until next week to sign a deal.

Paramount's five existing hotels, which include two other former Forte hotels — the Prince of Wales in Southampton and the Palace in Buxton, Derbyshire — make an operating profit of about £5.5 million from turnover of just under £20 million.

Alchemy is working on a funding deal that would enable Mr Purtil to buy out Paramount and acquire the three Forte hotels in one hit at a total cost approaching £75 million. The Alchemy partner leading the deal is Eric Walters, who was previously a partner in Schroder Ventures and who sat on the Paramount board.

A deal with Paramount would take the amount raised by Granada from Forte asset disposals to almost £1.5 billion against a book value of less than £1.2 billion. Including the sale of Granada businesses such as computer services, the total raised is more than £1.8 billion, compared with the £1.3 billion promised by Gerry Robinson, Granada's chairman, in the wake of the Forte takeover two years ago.

It still has hotels worth more than £700 million up for sale, including the Grosvenor House in London.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

ADVENTURES FROM £5



Times readers can save up to 50 per cent or more on a wide range of adventure activities until July 31, 1998. They are all featured in our *Wild Spirits* supplement (free with *The Times* on April 25).

● Book your visit in advance by telephone with one of the centres listed in the supplement and attach four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* to the coupon which will appear again tomorrow.

● Each completed coupon entitles you to any offer featured, either as an individual, a family or with friends. Our offer prices are followed by the normal cost in brackets.

● A total of 13 tokens and five coupons will be printed in *The Times* until Saturday May 9, enabling you to try as many as three different activities if you wish.

WINDSURFING
It is National Try Windsurfing Week from June 13-21 when more than 80 centres nationwide will offer two hours of tuition from a Royal Yachting Association qualified instructor. All the necessary equipment is provided, including a wetsuit.
As a Times reader you can enjoy this fantastic session for just £5 (normally a session costs about £24) plus £3 for one month's temporary RYA membership which includes full RYA third-party windsurfing insurance for the month. Or you can take part as a family which includes two adults and up to three children under 16 years old for £31. Sessions need to be booked and taken by the end of June 1998. Simply call *The Times* windsurfing hotline: 0990 100 500 for a list of participating venues and your voucher.

WET BIKING
Wet Bikes or Personal Watercraft are one of the fastest growing watersports. Unlike the older style 'Jet Ski' where the rider stood up or on the craft, wet bikes are driven like motorbikes. Fast and highly mobile, they are essentially small motor boats attracting many newcomers to the water.
You can discover the fun and excitement of wet bikes with a 15-minute taster session for just £5 (E25). This includes shoreline briefing on the craft, basic safety and a 10 minute burst on the water. Call 01703 627400/463 for a list of participating centres.

TOMORROW: HOT AIR BALLOONING BUNGEE JUMPING AND TIGER MOTH FLYING

CHANGING TIMES

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

CHYPRE

(a) An important perfume in Roman times, made in Cyprus (French: *Chypre*) from storax, labdanum and calamus (extract of the sandalwood). This heavy, oriental smell was popular in Italy in the Middle Ages and in France from the 17th century. *Westminster Gazette*, 1901: "No woman who uses Chypre has any sense of proportion."

LOESS

(a) Unconsolidated sediment deposited by the wind. Loess consists mainly of silt-sized quartz particles (0.05-0.06mm in diameter), showing little or no stratification. It occurs widely in central USA, Northern Europe, Russia, China and Argentina. Loess makes rugged topography with steep slopes.

WALDSTEIN

(b) Beethoven Op 53 piano sonata, a major work of his middle period. It came concurrently with the gift of a new quality piano from Sebastian Erard. Dedicated to Beethoven's chum, Count from Sebastian Erard. Dedicated to Beethoven's chum, Count from Sebastian Erard. Dedicated to Beethoven's chum, Count from Sebastian Erard.

CUDBEAR

(a) A purple dye obtained from a lichen, *Ochrolechia tartarea*. The lichen forms thick grey-brownish, rough, warty crusts on a range of substrates, eg. trees, soil, rocks. The dye used to be extracted from the lichen thallus by steeping them in urine.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Nc6! wins, as if 1... Qc6 2. Rxc6

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6855 (-0.0018)
German mark 2.9644 (-0.0279)
Exchange index 105.3 (-0.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 3872.8 (+104.4)
FTSE 100 6010.3 (+146.4)
New York Dow Jones 9147.07 (+82.45)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 15601.10 (-410.14)

TOURIST RATES

| | Bank Buys | Bank Sells |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Australia \$ | 2.65 | 2.47 |
| Austria Sch | 21.90 | 20.24 |
| Belgium Fr | 64.42 | 59.46 |
| Canada \$ | 2.506 | 2.318 |
| Cyprus Cyp£ | 0.915 | 0.844 |
| Denmark Kr | 11.92 | 11.03 |
| Finland Mk | 9.57 | 8.82 |
| France Fr | 10.44 | 9.68 |
| Germany Dm | 3.13 | 2.89 |
| Greece Dr | 542 | 503 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 13.71 | 12.51 |
| Iceland | 1.31 | 1.11 |
| Ireland Pt | 1.23 | 1.14 |
| Israel Shk | 6.53 | 5.88 |
| Italy Lira | 3107 | 2870 |
| Japan Yen | 238.60 | 219.07 |
| Malta | 0.894 | 0.825 |
| Netherlands Gld | 9.835 | 9.240 |
| New Zealand \$ | 3.15 | 2.91 |
| Norway Kr | 12.96 | 12.02 |
| Portugal Esc | 316.97 | 294.94 |
| S Africa Rd | 9.10 | 8.14 |
| Spain Pta | 268.61 | 244.82 |
| Sweden Kr | 13.85 | 12.55 |
| Switzerland Fr | 2.64 | 2.42 |
| Turkey Lira | 420212 | 400334 |
| USA \$ | 1.759 | 1.626 |

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates set at close of trading on Friday.

It may be rubbish, but it need not be trashy

I wasn't surprised to learn on A Song For Eurotrash (Channel 4, Saturday) that the Eurovision Song Contest is particularly popular with sections of the "gay community". Everything and everyone is a "gay icon" these days. I expect there are bars in Soho holding regular "Michael Fish Nights", and San Francisco clubs where everybody dresses as Neil Kinnock and watches Labour election broadcasts.

And the term "a friend of Katie Boyle" probably has a special meaning to aficionados of the handkerchief code because, as she proved again on Saturday night, she is the schoolmarm of schlock. Katie is a comfortable, elderly lady these days, halfway to morphing into a Barbara Cartland-style pink blob, but the clips of her four appearances as the contest's hostess, between 1960 and 1974 reminded us just how uncannily like the young Margaret Thatcher she

looked. She must have been the model for the future premier's image; but the Iron Lady is bound to be a gay icon herself by now.

The Eurovision Song Contest's primary purpose is to remind the world that nobody else can match Anglo-American popular music. Year in, year out, the other European countries parade their dismal wares and we all have a good laugh at their expense, while wondering how nations with such interesting cuisines and beautiful resorts can produce such rubbish.

The United Kingdom usually shows kindly, if patronising restraint in fielding somebody as inept and untalented as the Continental contestants. It is the worst possible advertisement for European unity and the main cause of the public's chronic fear of European integration.

It is also a perfect target for a mocking retrospective, and I was looking forward immensely to a

collection of ghastly clips. In this respect the programme was disappointing. Because it was made by Rapido TV in the Eurotrash format and co-hosted by Antoine de Caunes, we had the prurient female voice-over, the frantic set designs and inserts about tacky sexual self-publicists.

When de Caunes shared the presentation with Jean Paul Gauthier, Eurotrash used to be quite amusing. But Antoine has the silly "mah Breeteeesh chooms" accent and that's it. The programme has lost even the pretence of post-modern irony. Despite the dubbed grotesque British regional accents, the Walloon nudists and Bavarian amateur porn-stars are there at face value.

This style interfered with the archive material and undermined the main purpose, which was to let contemporary artists do cover

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

versions of Eurovision classics. Several of these teetered on the brink of being interesting.

Kenickie were right to describe Brotherhood of Man's 1976 *Save All Your Kisses For Me* as "a strange and disturbing song with a strange and disturbing dance", and produced a suitably creepy version of their own. Terry Hall claimed that if some of the lines in Dana's 1970 *All Kinds of Every-*

thing were "copyright Leonard Cohen", people would say they were works of genius. But his rendition of the song with Sinead O'Connor proved this untrue.

Time and again the overwhelming mediocrity of the material shone through, and I yearned to see the originals in their full, teeth-clenching glory. You can't parody that which already parodies itself, and thankfully Graham Norton didn't try too hard to do so in the next C4 tribute, *Graham Norton's Eurovision Masterclass*.

At last my hunger for old footage was satisfied, and a delicious selection it was too. Everything was perfect: the English line "Your breasts are like swallows a-morning" from one song; learning that Samantha Janus couldn't sing and Cliff couldn't dance; and the priceless section of performers wearing really big sleeves.

A Californian professor produced a computerised composite

called *Save Your Congratulations In The Box For Me* and Norton had a multi-ethnic instrument made of an accordion, balalaika, alpenhorn, bag-pipes and cannabie-filled Dutch bubble-bubble pipe, but it was really superficial. The clips stole the show.

The last ever series of *Father Ted* (Channel 4, Friday) ended as it began with Dermot Morgan's amiably vernal priest failing to escape from Craggy Island. If I were a devout Roman Catholic, I might have found this sitcom deeply offensive, and some Irish priests have done so. If you bother to analyse the different points about the church, religion and the priesthood implied in every line, you could not produce a more complete hatchet-job. The fact that Father Ted is so likeable is a mere figleaf.

As a lapsed Anglican (that may be tautological), it doesn't bother

me at all and I shall always remember Morgan and the series' dotty surrealism with a warm glow. Both were deeply humane in both the spiritual and everyday sense, and if Morgan is not a gay icon yet, he jolly well should be.

Having largely enjoyed the first *Wild About Gardens* (Channel 4, Friday) I decided to give it another go, and I am glad I did because the "Seashore" episode was even better than last week's "Woodlands" and without the moralising.

There is something slightly alien about coastal plant-life. Examining strange, starchy little plants gleaming in the clean, bright air on dunes or headlands is one of the great delights of seaside holidays. The programme recreated this magically, with lots of useful tips for stimulating the effect at home. Presenter Carol Klein had even bigger, shell-shaped earrings, but never mind. She probably wants to be a gay icon.

BBC1

7.00am News (1) (3592443)
7.10am News (1) (3128278) 7.35 Postman Pat (1) (2047094) 7.50 Tom and Jerry (1) (2248101) 8.15 Blue Peter (1) (1222128) 8.40 Yogi's Treasure Hunt (1) (4555171) 9.00 West Valley High (1) (8410100) 9.50 William's Wish (1) (1159094) 10.00 Teletubbies (7888348) 10.25 News (1) (3487148)

10.35 Candleshoe (1977) Comedy adventure with Leo McKern and Jodie Foster. Norman Tokar directs (1) (67554636)

12.15pm Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (6236988)

12.40 The General (1939) (339823)

1.05 News (1) and weather (11889075)

1.15 Regional News (1) (14752926)

1.20 Neighbours (1) (84292655)

1.45 Supergrass (1984) Helen Slater stars as Superman's younger cousin. With Faye Dunaway, Peter O'Toole and Peter Cook. Jarmut Swarcz directs (1) (61899029)

3.40 Bramble House (1) (1057029)

4.05 Splash (1984) Loney Tom Hanks falls in love with a beautiful mermaid (Daryl Hannah) who saves him from drowning. Directed by Ron Howard (1) (13142742)

5.50 News (1) and weather (736128)

6.10 Regional News (1) (710346)

6.15 Neighbours (1) (1488100)

6.40 Jobs for the Boys Hale and Pace write a Eurovision song with advice from Gary Barlow, Sir Tim Rice, Lord Lloyd-Webber, Sir George Martin, Elton John and past winner Cheryl Baker (1) (363549)

7.30 Gary Lineker's Golden Boots Gary searches for the secret of World Cup success in Germany where he meets 1970 veteran Gerd Muller and 1980 hero Karl Heinz Rummenigge, while in Munich Poland's Gregorz Lato reveals how it felt to win the Golden Boot in 1974 (1) (839)

8.00 EastEnders Lenny worries about his health (1) (1855)

8.30 Kasey Mite Kasey New six-part comedy series, with Corinne Quentin as a single woman. With Chris Langham and Amanda Holden (1) (3902)

9.00 Billylissangel The final episode of the drama series. Father Peter faces a difficult decision in the aftermath of the tragedy. With Stephen Tompkinson (1) (198433)

9.50 News (1) and weather (322471)

10.05 Regional News (1) (632655)

10.10 Renaissance Man (1994) Comedy, with Danny DeVito and Gregory Hines. An out of work advertising executive becomes a teacher to no-hope army recruits. Directed by Penny Marshall (1) (163384)

10.40 W.A.L.E.S. Women in Red (1971) 10.40 FILM: Renaissance Man (1994) (1926)

12.40am FILM: The Skin Game (1974) Western comedy, with James Garner and Lou Gossett as con-men who make a fortune swindling gullible landowners across Missouri and Kansas by posing as master and slave. Directed by Paul Bogart (1) (542389)

1.45 Weather (3661747)

1.50 BBC News (3661747)

BBC2

6.10am A Lesson in Progress (3755520)

6.35 Making Teams Work (5926891)

7.00 The Bell Boy (1960, b/w) Charming comedy starring, written, produced and directed by Jerry Lewis (452723)

8.10 Funny Face (1956) Musical comedy with Fred Astaire and Audrey Hepburn. A fashion photographer takes a bookish girl to Paris in the hopes of turning her into a fashion icon, but she proves to be a far-from-model model. Directed by Stanley Donen (1) (56745297)

9.50 Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961) The romantic adventures of Holly Golightly (Audrey Hepburn) as she searches for her perfect man in New York. Also with George Peppard, Patricia Neal, Martin Balsam and Mickey Rooney. Based on a story by Truman Capote. Directed by Blake Edwards (1) (1897004)

11.40 Monty Roberts: The Real Horse Whisperer (1) (1301094)

12.25pm Please Don't Eat the Daisies (1960) David Niven moves to the country but the joys of rural life aren't all they are cracked up to be. Also with Doris Day. Directed by Charles Walters (1) (54636)

2.15 Top Gear Motorsport Outdoor motorcycle trials championships, the Formula National, rallycross and Formula Ford (397807)

2.45 Snooker: World Championship The penultimate session of this year's final at the Crucible (2612655)

6.10 The Simpsons Homer's new snow plough business drives a rift between him and Barney (1) (300363)

6.55 Battistini Galactica (1) (222348)

7.45 Snooker: World Championship Live coverage of the remaining 11 frames (2126349)

NI: Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration

10.25 Shooting Stars '96: The Best Bits (1) (74607)

10.55 Euroleague: Pigeons in Flight John Shuttleworth's attempt to represent the UK at Euroleague. Lysiane de Paul, Cheryl Baker, Katrina and Brotherhood of Man offer some welcome advice (1) (969704)

11.35 The Outer Limits A town is overrun with ancient parasites which attack the brain leaving only a retarded man unharmed (1) (645907)

12.20am-12.25 Weather (5255650)

12.30 Learning Zone: Open University: This True Book of Ours - The Human Body (13872) 1.00 in the Market Place (19105)

1.30 The Thrive Estate (1975) 1.50 The Thrive Estate (1975) 1.50 The Thrive Estate (1975) 1.50 The Thrive Estate (1975)

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HTV

6.00am GMTV (9059638)

6.25 Tarzan's Greatest Adventure (1958) Jungle adventure with Gordon Scott. Anthony Quayle and Sara Shane. Directed by John Guillemin (1) (38336158)

11.00 Cannonball Run II (1983) with Burt Reynolds, Dom DeLuise and Sammy Davis Jr. An Arab sheik puts up a million-dollar prize for a run-of-an illegal coast-to-coast car race. Hal Needham directs (1) (16158)

1.00pm News (1) and weather (1186452)

1.15 The Making of Hard Rain (1981) 1.50 Rio Shannon (TV-M, 1994) Widowed mother Blair Brown is beset by problems while trying to transform her run-down New Mexico ranch into a smart hotel. Directed by Mimi Leder (2335471)

3.35 Superman II (1983) with Christopher Reeve, Gene Hackman and Margot Kidder. Three villainous Kryptonians threaten the Earth, while romance blossoms for Superman when he falls for the charms of reporter Lois Lane. Directed by Richard Lester (60163966)

5.55 News (1) and weather (198704)

6.05 Regional News (1) (811029)

6.10 CHOICE Wish You Were Here? Thailand, Thailand: Orlando's newest attraction, Animal Kingdom, Germany's largest theme park, and Queensland (1) (464520)

6.40 Kids from Allright On the Night Another selection of out-laws featuring children, presented by Denise Norden (588365)

7.40 Coronation Street Nick's obsession places Leanne in danger; Steve suffers from a guilty conscience (1) (151948)

8.10 ITN News (1) and weather (59287)

8.25 Regional News (1) (955162)

8.30 The World's Scariest Police Chases 2 More footage of high-speed chases from around the world (87704)

9.20 A Touch of Frost: Nothing to Hide Crime drama with the odd-fashioned detective Jack Frost, played by David Jason. While exploring the history of a murdered drug addict, Jack comes face to face with his own past (1) (8282075)

11.20 Wilder Napalm (1993) with Debra Winger, Dennis Quaid and Arliss Howard. Comedy about two brothers who possess a strange gift - they can both make objects burst into flames just by thinking about fire. Directed by Glenn Gordon Gair (1) (3551858)

1.25am Football Extra (8587056)

2.25 World Football (1) (8167722)

2.55 Customs Classified (1) (1041853)

3.40 News (1) (1) (3458871)

4.20 Breakaway (7396098)

4.30 ITV Nightvision (56495)

5.30 News (30037)

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CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

1.15pm-1.45 The Baldy Man (393181)

1.45-3.35 FILM: Rio Shannon (58354520)

3.00am Customs Classified (2055747)

4.20 Central Joffrey '98 (3354834)

5.20 Asian Eye (1633124)

As HTV West except:

1.15pm-1.45 The Baldy Man (393181)

1.45-3.35 FILM: Rio Shannon (58354520)

3.00am Freescreen (12835)

As HTV West except:

1.15pm-1.45 Powerman '98 (393181)

1.45-3.35 FILM: Rio Shannon (58354520)

5.00am Freescreen (12835)

As HTV West except:



IN THE DOCK 44

P&O keeps an eye on the 'wharfies' battle

BUSINESS

HARD CASH 46

The euro is not inevitable, says Roger Bootle



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MAY 4 1998

PowerGen talks to potential American partners

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

POWERGEN, the privatised power generating group, is expected to make a statement to the Stock Exchange tomorrow after it emerged that it has held talks with several potential US partners. They include Houston Industries, America's ninth-largest electricity group.

If a merger with Houston went ahead it would create a company valued at about £10 billion. It could be one of the world's largest electricity groups competing internationally.

The talks are said to be at a preliminary stage and PowerGen declined to comment last night. However, PowerGen is known to be keen to find a US partner to satisfy its ambition to become a global player. The British generator wants to be part of the rapidly deregulating electricity industry and take advantage of the huge potential it believes the US offers.

Houston is understood to have been looking for a UK partner. Last week its rival, Texas Utilities, won the bidding for the UK's Energy Group. Texas is now in a strong position as the owner of the only English regional electricity company with big generation interests. Institutional investors will, however, need to be persuaded that an international merger bringing no clear cost savings or marketing advantages is worth the risk of friction within management.

Rivals head-to-head for £2bn order

BA ready to favour Airbus over Boeing

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS is preparing for an historic shift from its links with Boeing by making a ground-breaking deal with rival aircraft manufacturer Airbus Industrie.

A £2 billion order being planned by British Airways has put the two aircraft manufacturers head-to-head in a contest to win a contract that is likely to have far-reaching effects on the way that European airlines deal with the dominant manufacturers.

British Airways has already indicated its willingness to break with its traditional reliance on Boeing by calling on both companies to put forward proposals to supply up to 100 short-haul jets. Now the airline, which has never ordered from Airbus, has made it clear that it has been impressed by proposals put forward by the four-nation consortium, which has British Aerospace as one of the main partners.

Managers from BA say that they have been surprised by the advances made by Airbus and believe that the time may now be right to join other European carriers in ordering from the firm based in Toulouse.

A senior manager said: "Events have moved on dramatically and we cannot ignore the production difficulties that Boeing have had."

In addition Airbus seem to be more flexible in arranging finance, training and giving engineering support. They do seem to have a very different attitude from Boeing, who still think they are the only major manufacturer in the world."

European airlines have ordered heavily from Airbus in recent years, while BA has only ten Airbus aircraft in its fleet, acquired when it took over British Caledonian.

Much of the past animosity towards Airbus was generated under the leadership of Lord King, but BA's senior management now appears to be much more inclined towards the European manufacturer.

In contrast to BA, Lufthansa and Air France each have more than 100 Airbus aircraft and together have more than 200 on order. However they will be watching closely the outcome of the BA deal, which British managers hope will break new ground by basing the financing on the actual time the aircraft are flying.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, has made it clear that he wants to move away from the company owning its own aircraft and instead is pressing senior colleagues to concentrate on operations, leaving ownership to other companies.

British Airways plans to

make an announcement later this year, possibly by late summer, and is expected to give one of the manufacturers the full contract, initially to supply 30 aircraft worth up to £600 million, with an option on a further 70, which would take the order up to £2 billion.

The contest pits Boeing's 737 and 757 aircraft against the Airbus A320 family. The aircraft are to be used for BA regional services, Air Liberté, Deutsche BA and EuroGatwick.

The indication that British Airways is preparing to switch allegiance comes as Airbus claims to be breaking new ground ahead of its US rival with the launch last week of its A330-300 aircraft for long-haul flights.

It also won an order from Canada 3000, an airline that might have been considered likely to place an order with the Seattle-based aircraft manufacturer.

Although Boeing still retains well over half of the world market, Airbus now believes that it can reach 50 per cent of the market early in the next century.

A spokesman said: "Only a few years ago Boeing were counting the days to Airbus going out of business. Now the most they can say is that we will not reach 50 per cent of the market."



Body blow: Anita Roddick, whose Body Shops have not made profits in the US since 1994

Body Shop forges link in US to attack losses

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

BODY SHOP plans to join forces with an American partner in an attempt to stem its growing losses in the US.

The retailer said that it was "in negotiations with a US partner" but declined to name the company. "We will announce details as soon as the deal is done," it said.

Analysts believe the Body Shop is hoping to complete the talks by May 12, so that it can unveil the partnership at the same time as its results.

The problems that the Body

Shop, which runs an international chain of health and beauty shops founded by Anita Roddick, has experienced in the US have been well documented. If the deal goes ahead it will be the first time that the chain has teamed up with an outsider to run part of its business.

The deal is expected to involve the Body Shop and its US partner, pooling the group's US business, including both its wholly-owned company shops and its franchise business in a joint venture. The partner would reorganise administration and distribution, which have been weak.

The Body Shop is likely to insist on retaining all rights to its brand.

Analysis estimate that the Body Shop has lost about £5 million in the US in its financial year, which ended in March, up from a loss of £3 million the previous year. The group has not made a profit in the US since 1994.

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Staff to gain as IT firm heads for £1bn float

By MARTIN WALLER

BRITAIN'S biggest information technology flotation is to start in earnest tomorrow when Computacenter issues its pathfinder prospectus for a £1 billion-plus stock market debut.

The stock market quotation of Computacenter, which provides services to many City institutions and more than half the companies in the FTSE 100 index, will make multimillionaires of Philip Hulme and Peter Ogden, the two founders of the company, who own 26 per cent each, and it will also reward the near-700 employees who hold 18 per cent of Computacenter's shares.

Apex Partners, the venture capital business, owns 22 per cent of the company, and Foreign & Colonial owns 7 per cent.

Goldman Sachs, the global co-ordinator to the issue, has taken on three powerful brokers, CSFB, HSBC and the renamed BT Alex Brown, which incorporates NatWest Securities, to form the rest of the syndicate selling the issue to institutions.

The pathfinder will give information to help City investors to bid for the shares. City observers say that the hiring of three such powerful brokers will help to ensure healthy bidding under the bookbuilding process, especially because the company is floating only a quarter of the equity.

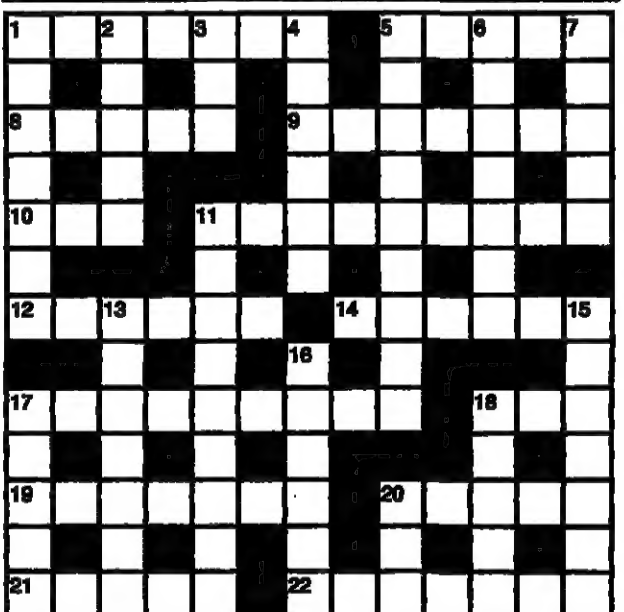
The business is being marketed on the basis of its proven track record, including pre-tax profits that were up by almost 40 per cent last year, and the strong growth that the information technology industry has enjoyed in recent years.

As a provider of computer equipment, rather than a software house or hardware manufacturer, the company is also considered to represent a relatively low technology risk.

Analysts who have been studying the issue say that the company should be capable of achieving 25 per cent annual growth in both its turnover and its pre-tax profits. As a result, the shares are not going to be cheap. Advisers hope that the shares will trade at nearly 30 times earnings, compared with a market average price/earnings ratio of 21.

The publication of the pathfinder prospectus will be followed by roadshows to introduce the company to institutions. Bookbuilding is expected to finish, and the shares to be priced, at the end of the month.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1396

ACROSS

- 1 Afternoon meal (4,3)
- 5 A fish (bird) sit (5)
- 8 Little wood (5)
- 9 Fired clay (article) (7)
- 10 Poisonous snake (3)
- 11 Oedipus Rex playwright (9)
- 12 Depressing: economics such a science (Carlyle) (6)
- 14 Half an island; one man in a boat (Verne) (6)
- 17 Briefly return for contact (5,4)
- 18 Receptacle: shoot (game) (5)
- 19 Post-mortem (7)
- 20 (Sheep) feed: abrasion (5)
- 21 Poem of lament (5)

DOWN

- 2 Drawn: Rider —, author (7)
- 3 Band, collection (5)
- 4 Fasten: cup game (3)
- 6 Receive (6)
- 7 Slowly strain through (9)
- 8 A walker: a rose (7)
- 9 Pawns: horse's ankles (5)
- 11 Cheerfully careless (4-5)
- 13 Run (away): sink (ship) (7)
- 15 Portion: part of line (maths) (7)
- 16 (US) ravine (6)
- 17 Make gentle fun of (5)
- 18 Mark on horse: burn (5)
- 20 Joke: silence (5)

We regret that Saturday's puzzle No 1395 was omitted

SOLUTION TO NO 1394 (FRIDAY'S PUZZLE)

ACROSS: 1 Cold 3 Blooded 8 Mineral 9 Audean 10 Apart 11 Abyssal 13 Assiduous 17 Fiddler 19 Troll 20 Act/on 22 Cashier 23 Empress 24 City

DOWN: 1 Cymbal 2 Lend a hand 3 Belt and braces 4 Ovary 5 Did 6 Dandle 7 Brutus 12 Mussolini 14 Obuse 15 Efface 16 Flurry 18 Lance 21 Top

SOLUTION TO WEEKEND MAY BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO

ACROSS: 1 When shall we three meet again? 15 Re-abandon

16 Fulcrum 17 Improve 18 Interim 19 Corporeal

20 Turnabout 21 Groundnut 23 Self-determination

24 Australasia 26 Herewith 28 Tempi 30 Entropy

32 Oven-gloves 34 Peaceful 37 Speaking-trumpet 39 Tea ceremony

40 Trompe-l'oeil 42 In the nick of time

45 Testator 46 Picture hat 47 Kildare 49 Let go

51 Exegesis 53 Purple heart 56 The Doctor's Dilemma

59 Armadillo 60 Turncoat 61 Filmsiest 62 Nineveh

64 Lamark 65 Incognito 66 Plays fair 67 An old head on young shoulders

DOWN: 1 Working papers 2 Exactions 3 Stair

4 Abdominally 5 Linocut 6 Empire State Building 7 Hair oil

8 East-End 9 Mantel 10 Electorate 11 Acid rain

12 Alpha particle 13 Neologism 14 Septennially 22 Norfolk

25 Smoother 26 High point 27 When the chips are down

29 Bedeck 31 Tremors 33 Outstares 35 Florida

36 Canister 38 Nelson 40 Title-battle 41 Piano concerto

43 Flashed 44 Electrophorus 47 Kilimanjaro 48 Expressive

50 The Crimea 52 Selling on 54 Alleviate 55 Attacked

57 Defaced 58 Mesozoic 59 Antipas 63 Nasal

Thomson runs out of share forms

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

A GREATER than expected demand for shares in the forthcoming Thomson Travel Group (TTG) flotation has left investors without application forms for the issue — just days before deadline.

The prospect of a 10 per cent discount on Thomson holidays has prompted a rush for the shares. TTG said last night that the share shops appointed to handle the retail offer were struggling to clear the backlog, adding: "We are aware of the problem."

Applicants need to return their forms with a cheque by noon on Thursday, but many who registered more than a week ago have not received the applications. At the last count, 600,000 potential shareholders had asked to be sent

application forms. One couple, Mike and Carol Lander, from East Sussex, said they registered for the offer last month with the Share Centre and were becoming increasingly anxious as the deadline loomed and they had not received the documents.

TTG is still discussing with its financial advisers, Dresner Kleinwort Benson, whether to increase the size of the retail offer, which is currently earmarked for 10 per cent of the global offer. No decision will be made until the end of the week when the institutional bookbuilding exercise is finished.

By then, investors should have a clearer idea about the offer price, ranged between 140p and 170p.

Biotech inquiry reopened by Cameron McKenna

By PAUL DURMAN

CAMERON McKENNA, the law firm, has reopened its investigation into controversial events at British Biotech, the drug development company run by Keith McCullagh, the Government's adviser on high-technology firms.

British Biotech has relied on Cameron McKenna's initial report to justify the sacking of Andy Millar, its former director of clinical research, even though it failed to address several of his concerns about its drug programmes. It is understood that Cameron McKenna is now looking at British Biotech's handling of a warning from European regulators about Zucutax, its pancreatitis drug.

Within days of receiving the regulators' major objections to approving the drug last

May, the company made two upbeat statements about it. The European Medicines Evaluation Agency hopes to put its objections on the Internet today. Biotech has stopped publication of details of Cameron McKenna's original report by seeking injunctions on newspapers.

Dr Millar sees last May as crucial in his dispute with Dr McCullagh. Besides the Zucutax objections, it was in May that Dr Millar says he gave Dr McCullagh a memo on his doubts about the drug, which he sees as unlikely to be an effective pancreatitis treatment. Dr McCullagh is understood to deny having had the memo. Dr Millar also raised the memo at his dismissal hearing two weeks ago, but it was not minuted, even after he sought a correction.

Taxman demanding £1 arrears

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

TAXPAYERS and accountants are struggling under a tyranny of errors, delays and minuscule tax demands generated by the self-assessment system that was introduced by the Inland Revenue last year.

A survey of 450 members of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) revealed that 65 per cent had clients who had received tax demands for less than £1. One married couple who were business partners were

amazed when the wife was sent a tax refund of 40p while at the same time her husband was charged 30p.

Chas Roy-Chowdhury, the senior tax technical officer of the ACCA, said that, unlike the PAYE system, which rounds up tax demands for the employed to the nearest £10, the self-assessment regime requires payments to be made exactly — to the penny.

On top of this, accountants complained that they were bogged down by Revenue errors. Seven in ten claimed they were spending up to a third more time on their

Venture capital funding surges

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

A SURGE into continental Europe boosted British venture capital investment to a record £4.2 billion in 1997, up from £3.2 billion in 1996. Of this, almost £1 billion was put into companies in the euro area, nearly three times the figure for 1996. And this does not include investments made by offices of members of the British Venture Capital Association across the Channel.

A report compiled by Bannock Consulting, which claims to cover every big UK source of venture capital, also showed a surge in backing for high-technology companies and for start-ups. Finance for management buyouts edged down, accounting for less than a third of the 1,272 companies helped and just under half the cash invested. This may defuse fears that another boom in UK venture capital could go too far, as it did last time.

clients' affairs because of mistakes by Revenue staff. The biggest complaints were of two tax returns being sent to the same person, lengthy delays in processing returns, demands issued to people who had paid tax or had no taxable income at all.

Mavis Sargent, an ACCA taxation committee chairman, said: "This is worrying for anyone who pays tax. Ordinary taxpayers are expected to work the system to file on time. Yet experienced Revenue staff clearly do not understand the system."

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SPORT 27.35
BODY & MIND 16
LAW REPORT 30